Women in Natural Sciences (WINS) is an after-school and summer science enrichment program at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University (ANDU), for high school girls in Philadelphia. The program is focused on developing strong science and leadership skills in girls who have the potential to pursue the sciences in their academic and professional careers. ANDU, a nonprofit organization comprised of scientists and educators, is dedicated to providing hands-on science workshops, career and college exploration, and positive youth development. The program's mission is to provide them with a well-rounded education, a community of like-minded peers, and experiences not typically found in school. A special emphasis on households headed by a single parent, grandparents, non-parent guardians, or foster parents. Since its founding in 1982, WINS has introduced over 6000 girls to careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. Internships are important for high school students whether they are in their expected field of study or a new opportunity. An internship in WINS is not about making money; it is about learning fun while teaching me how to be a better scientist and prepare for my future. It has taught me and inspired me to learn more about science. Without it I would not have known what I want to accomplish and what I want to be my future profession. It has taught me about leadership, how to work as a team and how to deal with mistakes. I have been able to gain experience in different fields, and I am able to prepare my future career. It has been a rewarding experience for me. I have learned that most of what I have learned in school has helped me in understanding the fossils and the surroundings. In the field we had to make “no-mistakes” whenever something was wrong we would do it over until it was right. We had to be patient and persistent. They found out that fossils are not easy to find and that it requires a lot of preparation and knowledge to do it right. While I sat there collecting fossil fragments under the hot sun, I realized something - this was a job for a life time! It has taught me that working with scientists and learning a science skill, it is also about helping to guide a path for my future. In my upcoming years. It has taught me and encouraged me to become more interested in science. It has taught me that science is not always easy, and you have to be patient. It has taught me that you have to have a lot of experience because “I got to meet new people, learn about a specific field of science, do field work, and share my enthusiasm of paleontology with students of the Academy.”

**WHAT DID THE GIRLS GET OUT OF THIS EXPERIENCE?**

- A better understanding of what they had been working on that summer.  They were able to see the "big picture." They got the opportunity to see the process from the beginning and see how other students are involved in the process, transporting them, etc. Then they get to see the same pieces as students that others have come across.  Your experiences are not interesting to be on the other side of what we usually do in science, since we get hands on help in the field. At last site activities are conducted and interpreted for the public. "I really enjoy being on the other side of what we usually do in science, since we get hands on help in the field. At last site activities are conducted and interpreted for the public."

- Self-confidence and self-esteem. Though the program still continues to focus on science, college and career exploration in school age girls in the School District of Philadelphia, the WINS girls do get to meet new people, learn about a specific field of science, do field work, and share my enthusiasm of paleontology with students of the Academy. "It was interesting to be on the other side of what we usually do in science, since we get hands on help in the field. At last site activities are conducted and interpreted for the public." "I really enjoy being on the other side of what we usually do in science, since we get hands on help in the field. At last site activities are conducted and interpreted for the public."

**CONCLUSIONS**
Internships are important for high school students whether they are in their expected field of study or not. An internship at this age is much more than learning a science skill, it also includes mentorship. Membership in any age group is important, but the WINS interns are some of the most responsible adults that they can count on. As a member of the team who ran "the show," what I most appreciated was the uniqueness of each student. What is most exciting about WINS is that no matter when you become a WINS intern, that whatever you have, you can always evolve and continue to change your situation if you want to.