



*CODES Students / IRIS Center Facebook*

## Reflections from a CODE Scholar

My time in the CODES program at SIUE introduced me to many local actors who work within their communities to better them. I started my work with the National Great River's Research and Education Center (NGRREC) in the Fall of 2022, where I was introduced to a variety of environmentalists, researchers, policy analyst, and community outreach coordinators.

My favorite experience during the initial semester of CODES was my interaction with Ruth Meyers, a retired social worker who had worked in the Alton area since the 1980s and related to me the importance of community and remembering the past. With the interview I did of her, I created a 12 minute video which I learned to edit by myself.

My next highlight of CODES was the internship I had with the NGRREC the summer of 2023. I was introduced to community science through the Riverwatch program which tests local streams for their health. I worked at several environmental events, with local TRIO Upward Bound students on water education, and learned the innerworkings of an environmental organization. My junior year had me interviewing members of different environmental organizations across Madison County and taught me the variety of different ways communities can be engaged with the environment.

For the rest of my time at SIUE, I plan to continue my work with the environmental organizations I have met. As a future educator, my perspectives on community engagement with the environment will help me engage students in the future. The lessons about community, environmentalism, and engagement are ones I will carry the rest of my life.

**By Nicholas Muppidi-Fowler**



Me during Riverwatch training,  
Summer '23 Internship

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