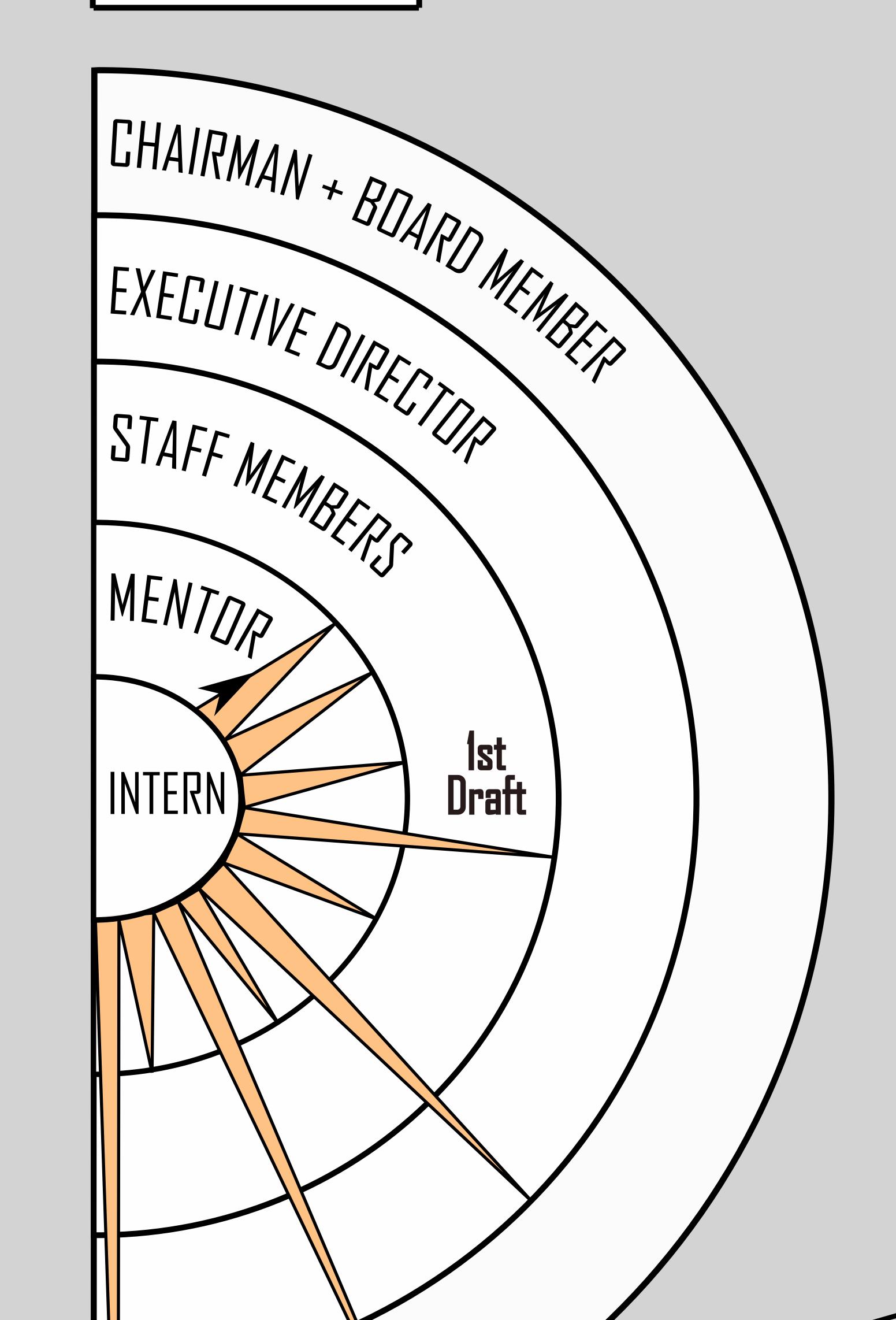


The US Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board Intern Program: Developing Next Generation Nuclear Waste Professionals

Developing the Draft

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Continuing



Critical Thinking and Communication Development

It did not take long for the interns to realize that at the Board, every word matters. The interns readily, and somewhat painfully, recall the rigorous writing review process that exists within the Board. First, the interns submitted a draft to their mentor and were rewarded with many, many corrections, which were indicated by soon-to-be-familiar red ink.

Rather than simply providing edits on content and grammar, the interns' first iteration of edits emphasized critical thinking and crafting logic through text. Once the logic of the work flowed easily, the second iteration of corrections focused on grammar and sentence structure.

Finally, the third iteration thoroughly examined each word on the page as if it were held under a microscope. The reviewers' purpose was to ensure that the intention was obvious and not easily misconstrued.

Federal Perspective

From the first week in both internships, the Board sent the interns to a variety of meetings in order to fully understand the federal landscape and the many different agencies and organizations involved in developing a program to manage and dispose of nuclear

Participation at meetings and conferences developed a deeper understanding of where the Board fits in the federal landscape of nuclear waste organization. The trips helped the interns see the many current efforts underway to find a solution to the management and disposal of nuclear waste.

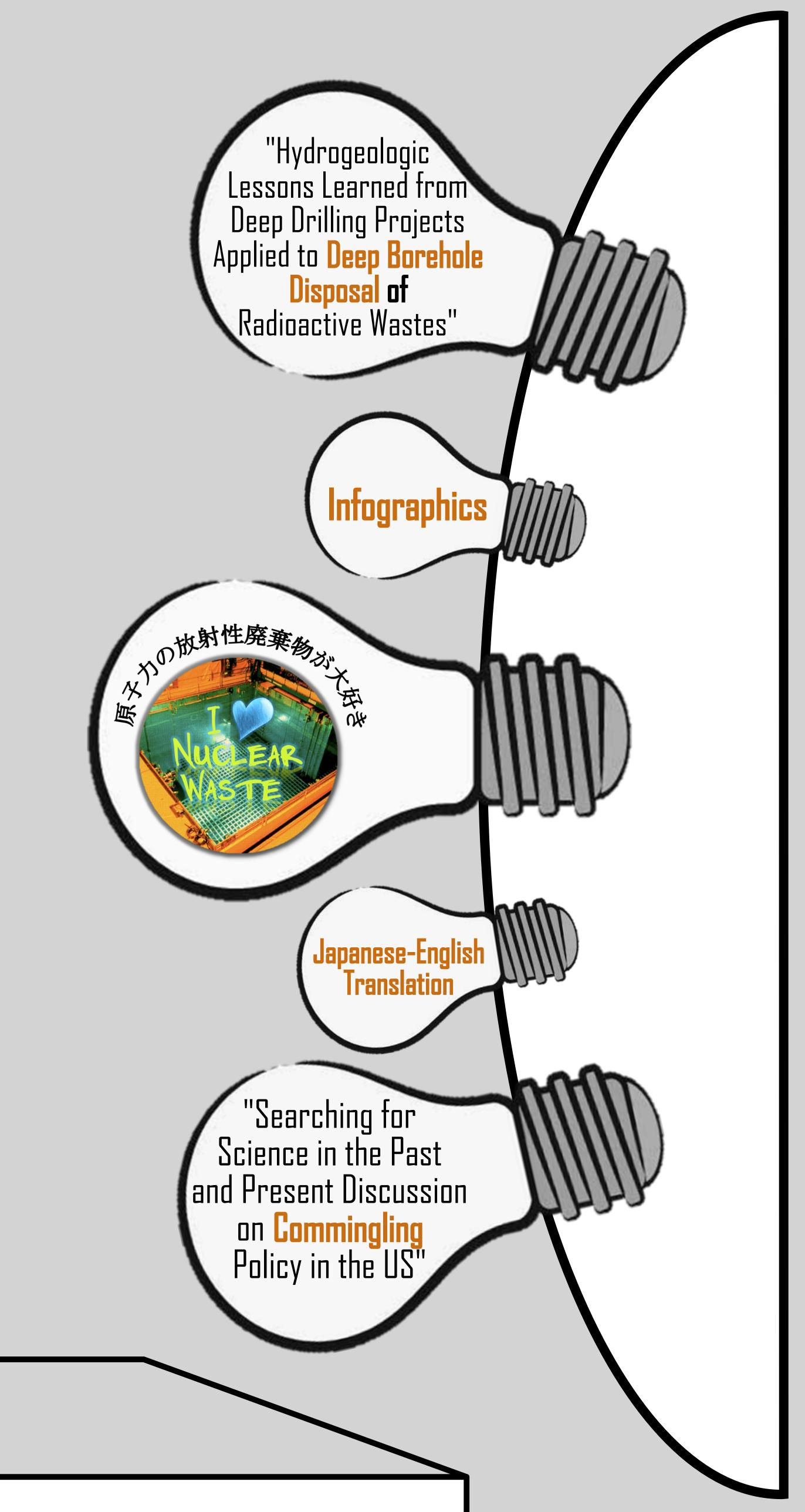
Additionally, the Board's interns developed relationships with staff members from several other federal agencies that will be vital as they develop into the next generation of nuclear waste professionals.

Transfer of Ownership

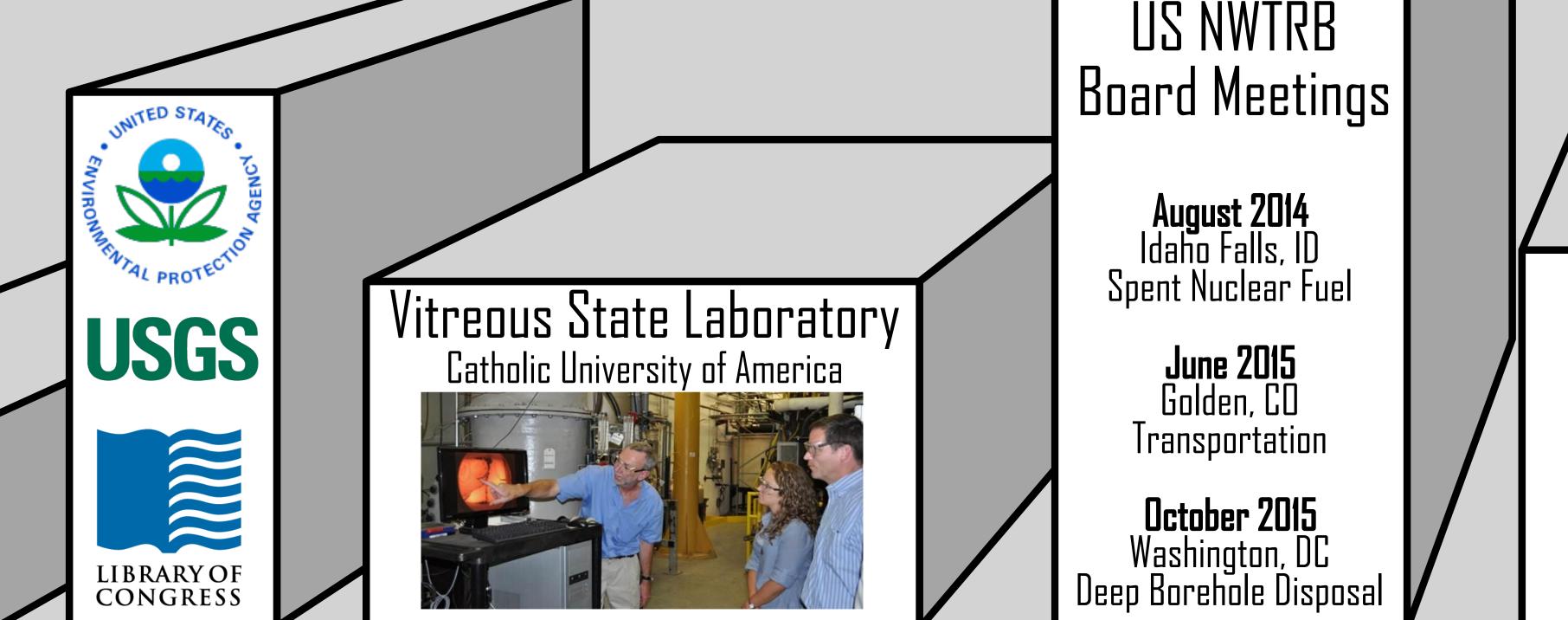
In creating the internship program, from first interview to final presentation, the Board's objective was to encourage independence and initiative, with the hope that would also foster enthusiasm for becoming a professional in the nuclear waste community.

The interns, with advice from their mentor, chose their summer projects in a technical area related to the Board's mission. As a result, the interns gained a sense of ownership that increased over the course of the project, while the final product supported the work of the

A key aspect in the Board's internship program was the encouragement of pre-existing talents held by each of the interns in innovation and professional development at conferences. This continuing support from staff and Board members has increased the interns' enthusiasm in becoming nuclear waste professionals and increased their opportunities for networking and professional



The Internship Experience



US NWTRB Board Meetings





Transportation

Center for

U.S. Senate Committee on Environmental and Public Works

Sandia National Laboratories

Science, Technology, and Security Policy meeting on Plutonium Disposition

Science, Technology, and Security Policy meeting on Plutonium Disposition NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES