

## Abstract

The Applied Anthropology Laboratories (AAL) in the Department of Anthropology at Ball State University focuses on providing student-centered hands-on training in archaeology and heritage management. As we move toward becoming an increasingly student-focused operation supported by grant and CRM funding sources, we have been able to provide students diverse opportunities to engage outside of the classroom through both experiential and immersive learning. This operational shift of focusing on student learning has resulted in a substantial increase in paid work opportunities for more students, internships, assistantships, and volunteer opportunities. These opportunities result in students graduating with job experiences in research, archaeological survey, report writing, and other transferable skills valuable in an increasingly competitive job market.



(above) February 2018, Charity Munro discusses AAL research and findings at AAL's Annual Open House to students, faculty, and the public.

## Background

The Applied Anthropology Laboratories was founded as the Archaeological Resource Management Services (ARMS) in 1978. Since then, our focus has shifted from offering cultural resource management (CRM) services to public and private agencies to expanding student education beyond the classroom. This is accomplished through practical experience, most often paid, in the application of technical and scientific Anthropological knowledge.

Student activities are funded externally through service contracts and grants, providing a large number and ever changing array of paid and unpaid student opportunities. Students are integrated into every aspect of archaeological research we conduct. Many undergraduate and graduate students become skilled in surveying, cataloguing, artifact analysis, report writing, supervising small crews, background research, and presenting at professional conferences.



(above, left) Connor McCoy conducts analysis of soil samples under supervision, and (above, right) Cecilia Szmuto participates in the 2017 Mounds State Park's Archaeology Day.

## Goals: #LearnWorkDiscover

**Learn.** Promote the value of anthropology and archaeology as STEM research and education.

**Work.** Combine standard and innovative approaches to assist communities, government agencies, and industry in the integration of cultural preservation with community economic development.

**Discover.** Become a nationally recognized leader in student-centered research and public service.

## Student Participation

Student participation takes many forms including paid work, unpaid internships, or volunteering for public archaeology events. Participation is noncompulsory for graduation, so an engaging variety of activities is vital to attract and retain student participation.

Since 2009 student participation rates increased significantly and have stayed very high (see Figure 1). This high level of hours has created a new problem, a limit in the number of students we can find to fill opportunities. We are focusing heavily on student recruitment to fill available experiential learning opportunities resulting from our grant-funded activities.

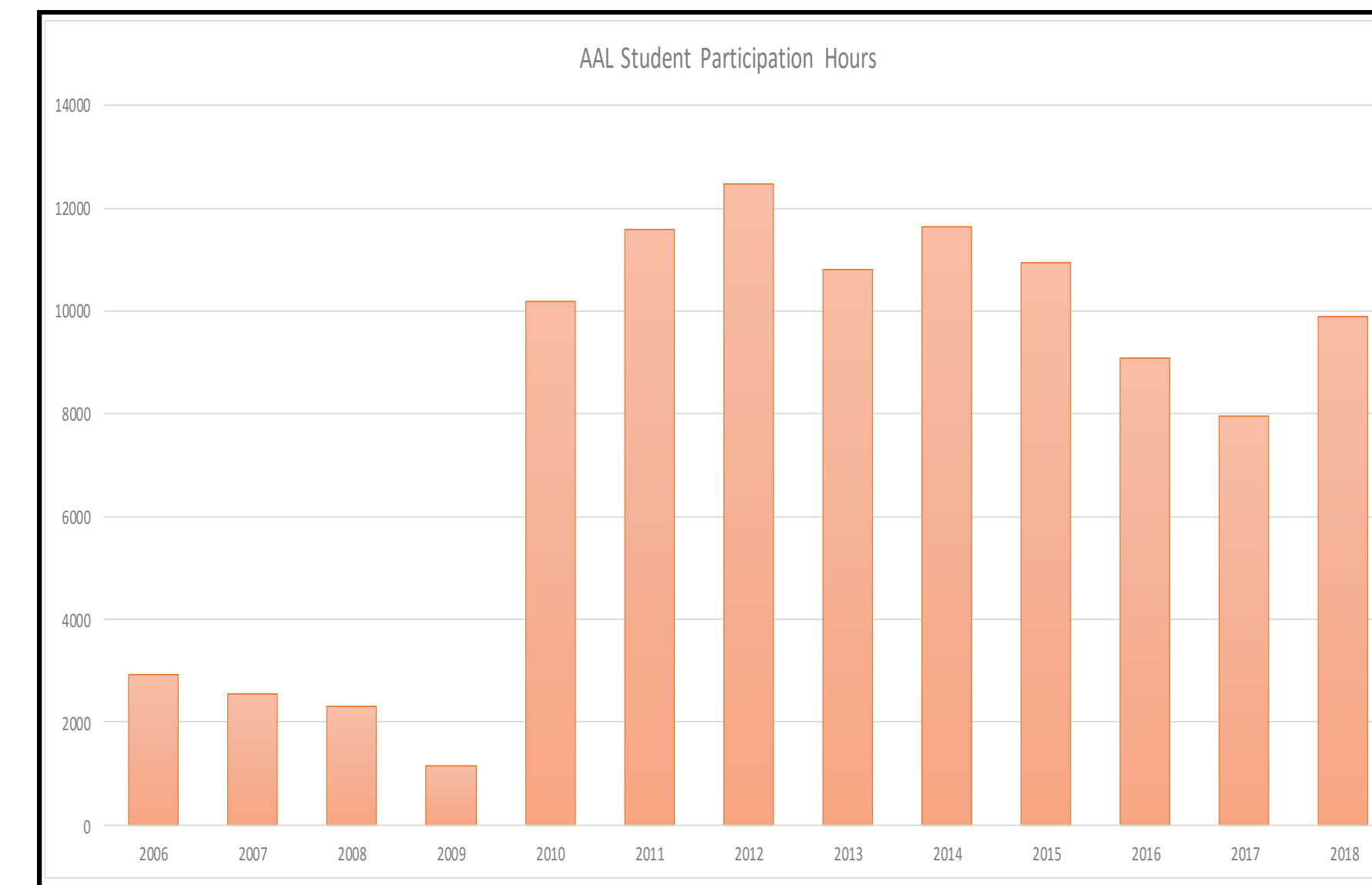


Figure 1: Paid and Unpaid, Graduate and Undergraduate student participation by calendar year, 2006-present.

## Paid: Contracts and Grants

The AAL is supported through both contracts and grants. In recent years, grants have increased and diversified. This mix provides research opportunities for students, encourages student participation, and provides students a more complete picture of the discipline. Students, undergraduate and graduate, are involved in all aspects of the projects from proposal development through report submission. We have sustained a robust increase in paid student, hands-on learning opportunities. (Figure 2).

This work-integrated learning experience develops more experienced and qualified professions entering into a competitive job market. Unlike traditional field school models, AAL is not a class. Students graduate with experience as paid employees meeting real client deadlines and producing a quality product.

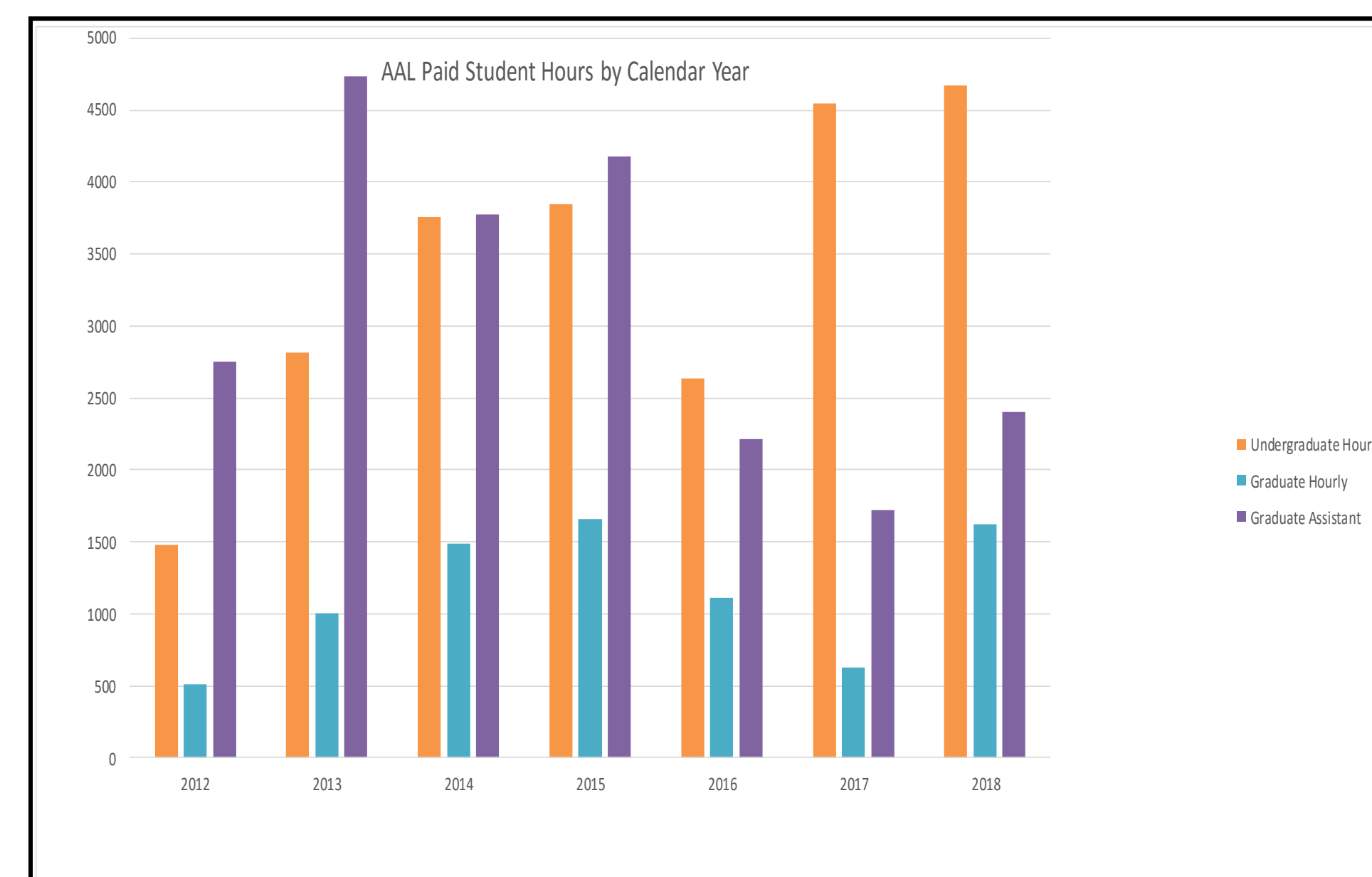


Figure 2: AAL Paid Student Hours by Calendar year, 2012-present



(above) Phil Engel, Kelli Wathen, Cameron Bell, Hannah Banks, and Robin Johnson work together on the final shovel test probe of a contract project site in March. These students gained valuable experience and pay for their hard work.



(left) Summer 2018, Multiple student employees carry equipment to a grant-funded project site. In a survey conducted at the end of the summer, respondents indicated an increased understanding in archaeological methods, survey methods, professionalism, documentation, leadership, working well under pressure, communication, teamwork/collaboration, and material culture. (center) May 2018, Connor McCoy meets with visitors to the Fort Recovery State Museum (OH) to discuss Ball State University's ABPP research and findings. Community support and outreach is an important element to AAL's work. (right) Cecilia Szmuto demonstrates using a shaker screen during a grant-funded project. Experienced student employees and graduate assistants take on a leadership role by supervising and instructing less-experienced students.

## Unpaid: Trainees, Volunteers, and Internships

AAL student participation is not limited to student employment on grants and contracts. Students without the required prerequisites undergo 20 hours of training before becoming employees. Trainees learn artifact recognition through washing and cataloging procedures. During 2018, the training format and content was enhanced with additional informational videos and readings.

Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to participate in public archaeology outreach events at Mounds State Park, local elementary schools, community centers, and community organizations. These opportunities strengthen communication and public speaking skills through interacting with a range of social groups and ages. On-going community outreach activities also includes free artifact analysis for the public, an annual laboratory open house, and social media interaction.

Unpaid internships are available to Ball State University students for one to three credit hours. Unpaid Internship. Past internship offerings have included Three Dimensional Modeling and Production, Public Archaeology, Lab Technician, Archaeological Soils Analysis, and Collections Management.

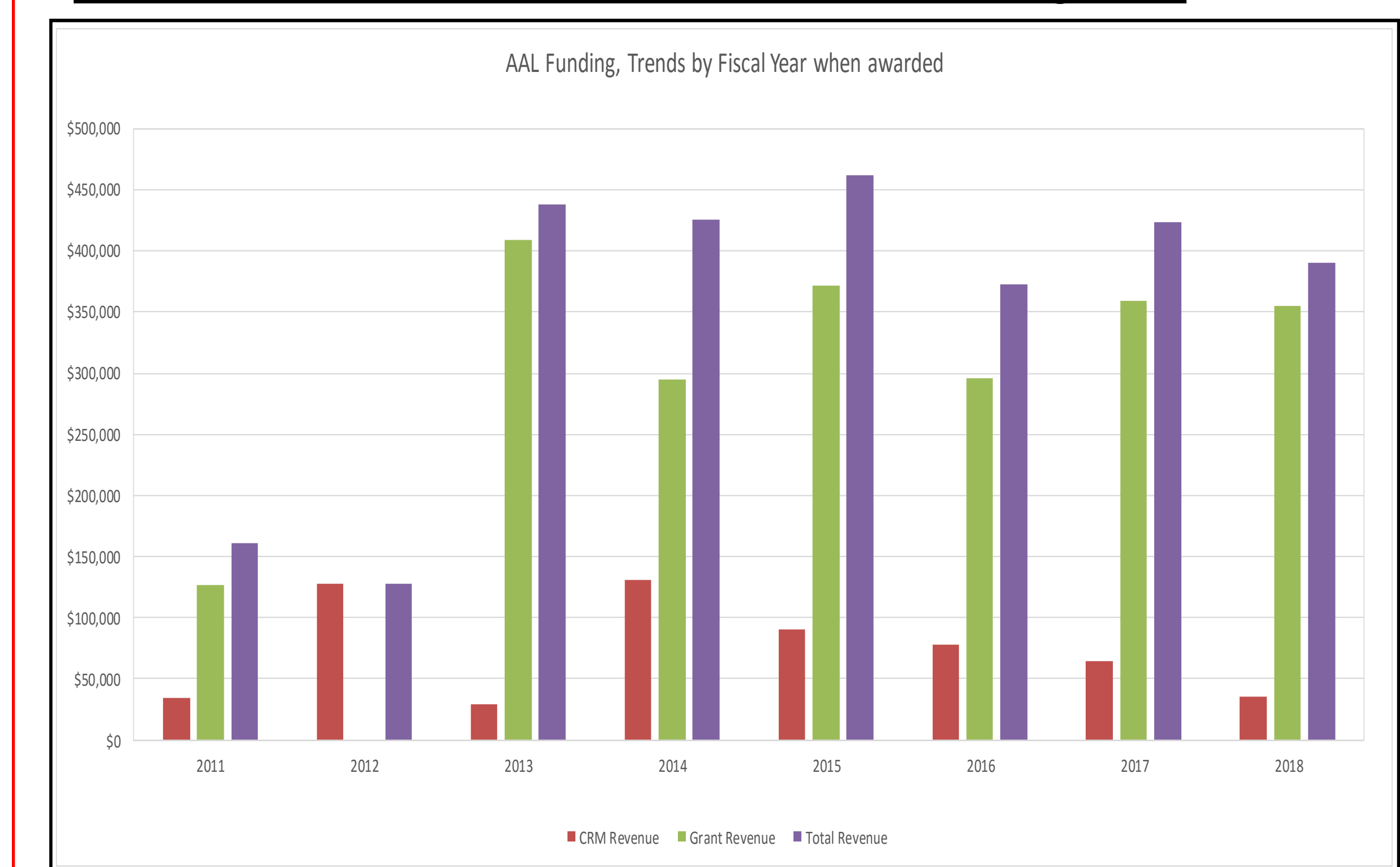


(above) Trainees, employees, and graduate assistants work side-by-side and collaboratively.

## AAL Funding

Since AAL's operational shift to focus on student-centered hands-on training in archaeology and heritage management, funding sources have diversified to include grants. Over this short period of time, grant funding has significantly increased to support new student learning opportunities and paid employment in the field.

**Since 2011, AAL has been awarded over \$2,200,000 in grants.** Current trends suggest that



AAL will be able to fund many more hours of paid student involvement in coming years. AAL has increased student recruitment efforts to meet this new demand.

## Outcomes

AAL provides a student-centered educational and professional experience unique to Ball State University. Our student-focused operation connects classroom learning to the real world in a variety of ways. These opportunities are made possible through CRM contracts with private clients and high levels of grant funding from the National Science Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, Indiana Department of Natural Resources (Historic Preservation Fund), National Park Service (NPS) American Battlefield Protection Program, NPS Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and other external and Ball State University funding.