

WTAMU Experiential Education Program Fall 2009 Executive Summary

The Experiential Education program (formerly Cooperative Education) began in the spring of 1994. A Title VIII Department of Education grant started the program, and we placed the first students in the spring of 1994. Our vital statistics to date include:

- Monitored 1,785 individual placements to date (33 in Fall 2009)
- Placed 791 students in internships (unduplicated count)
- Average GPA of the Fall 2009 class – 2.99
- Average wage for the Fall 2009 class - \$13.55 per hour
- Total dollars earned by the Fall 2009 class - \$111,786
- Total dollars earned by all internship students to date - \$6,164,427

To date in the 2009-10 academic year, the Experiential Education & Career Services program helped 935 students through both online and in-person résumé workshops. Additionally, our counselors have provided career counseling to 115 students so far in this academic year. This counseling and guidance helps students determine their best career path.

Selected Intern Comments in Response to “What Did You Like Most About the Internship?”

“I enjoyed the relationships that I was able to build with my co-workers during my internship and the experience I gained from working in the professional workforce..”

*Grant McDivitt, Economics Major
Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.- Oklahoma City, OK*

“I loved working with everyone at Attebury. They are a large unrelated family who make their work enjoyable. I had no problem getting to know and like everyone there..”

*Kari Schilling, Agribusiness Major
Attebury Grain- Amarillo, TX*

“Learning the business side of agriculture. I also improved my accounting skills 10 fold.”

*Mitch Meyer, Agribusiness Major
Great Plains Ag Credit.- Amarillo, TX*

“I really liked the people I worked with at the firm and the work environment was very relaxed. I liked the work that I was doing and I think that it confirmed my choice as a CPA. I really liked seeing my school work applied to a job in the real world, and feel that I handled it very well..”

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*Jacob Young, Accounting Major
Rex Lemert P.C.- Amarillo, TX*

“I liked working in teams. We accomplished a lot more than we would have if we had done things individually.”

*Toni Gerber, Marketing Major
West Texas A&M University, Canyon, TX*

Intern to Full-Time for Fall 2009

This semester 5 out of our 33 interns graduated. Three took full-time jobs, one is pursuing graduate school, and one is seeking full-time employment. All of these students are listed on the chart below.

Graduate	Major	Intern Employer	Current Status
Garcia, Nancy	Interdisciplinary Studies	Amarillo Globe News	Seeking FT
Hernandez, Crystal	Mass Comm.- Ad/PR	High Plains Public Radio	FT with Panhandle WorkSource
Martinez, Janeth	Mass Comm.- Ad/PR	West Texas A&M University	Graduate School
Rivero, Guadalupe	Mechanical Engineering	B&W Pantex.	FT with B&W Pantex
Schilling, Kari	Ag, Business & Economics	Attebury Grain	Rural Community Insurance Services

Participating Employers

The full list of employers we have worked with are online at <http://www.wtamu.edu/student-support/cs-emp-participating-employers.aspx>

Fall 2009 INTERNS

15% - Graduated

- 60% of these students have full-time positions
 - 20% are pursuing graduate school
 - 20% are seeking full-time employment

58% - Continuing Their Internship

27% - Seeking Another Internship and/or Pursuing Degree Full-Time

Internships continue to be an effective way for students to gain major-related experience and in many cases, a professional position upon graduation!
