

West Texas A&M University

Cooperative Education / Internship Program

Spring 2005 Executive Summary

The co-op / internship program at WTAMU began in the spring of 1994. A Title VIII Department of Education grant started the program and placed the first students in the spring of 1994. Our vital statistics to date include:

- Monitored 1187 individual placements to date (44 in Spring 2005)
- Placed 551 students in paid internships / co-op jobs (unduplicated count)
- Average GPA of the Spring 2005 class – 3.312
- Average wage for the Spring 2005 class - \$10.02 per hour
- Total dollars earned by the Spring 2005 class - \$154,403
- Total dollars earned by all co-op / internship students to date - \$3,894,566

In the academic year to date, the co-op / internship program has also helped more than 1373 students through both online and in-person résumé workshops. Additionally, our counselors have provided career counseling to 212 students to date during the 2004-05 school year. This counseling and guidance helps students determine their best career path.

Intern to Full-Time for Spring 2005

Of the interns placed, eight graduated this semester and two are within 6 hours of graduation. Of these ten:

- Three are in the job search. We are assisting those students in finding full-time positions.
- Six took full-time positions with either their internship employers or another related employer.
- One has been accepted to physical therapy school and will begin in the fall.

Interns to Full-Time, Spring 2005

Lacie McGuire (Management) - Hastings
Mary Fehr (Accounting) – Owens-Corning
Monica Fannon (General Business) – Pantex (continuing in graduate school)
Andy Tiner (Marketing) – Coffee Memorial Blood Center
Amy Wagner (Accounting) – Alamosa
Brian Schrayner (Accounting) – Doshier, Pickens, & Francis
Marka Miller (Pre-P.T.) – Accepted to Texas Tech University P.T. School
Leah Pearce (General Business) - Cintas

Participating Employers

For a current list of employers who have participated in our program, please see <http://wtcareer.wtamu.edu/coop/coopemp.htm>.

Selected Student and Employer Comments

“I would highly recommend the exciting chance to work in an internship to any interested student. It is a unique and educational experience that one would never forget. Besides, it would be foolish to pass up a chance to be able to put experience in your area of study on your résumé. Employers want more than a degree from graduating students...”

*Michelle Dedrick, Accounting Major
Intern with Family Support Services*

“Overall, the experience is very unique. The friendships I have made plus the memories will never be forgotten. I have been interacting with people from all over the world...It was well worth it regardless of all the challenges and obstacles...”

“I would encourage other students to participate in college program. It is not all magic and pixie dust; but the actual work and meeting people from all over the world (including Disney executives) make it worthwhile. I would definitely do it again knowing what I know now.”

*Sandra Guevara, Accounting Major
Intern with Disney*

“Our website was extremely outdated. John (our intern) completely redesigned the website for us and continued to keep it maintained and updated. Now we promote the website and are thrilled with the traffic it gets.”

*Sandra Curphey, Executive Director
Make-A-Wish Foundation*

“The FDIC tour is a tremendous opportunity, and without a doubt, would benefit any motivated student in limitless ways. I gained banking experience, flexibility, and enhanced my organizational, written, and oral communication skills.”

*Shaun Pfeiffer, Finance Major
Intern at Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation*

“This internship has taught me that I can do anything I put my mind to. It has opened my eyes to the political process and has taught me how to deal with people on a professional level.”

*Shemika Sanford, Management Major
Intern with the Texas Speaker of the House, Tom Craddick*

“This experience alone may have possibly been the most valuable event during my life as a college student. It has helped so much with academic work because I’ve been able to take what I’ve learned from the books and apply it to a business setting.”

*Amy Wagner, Accounting Major
Intern at Quixx Corporation*