

West Texas A&M University Cooperative Education / Internship Program Spring 2006 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 we placed the first students in the spring of 1994. Our vital statistics to date include:

- Monitored 1265 individual placements to date (49 in Spring 2006)
- Placed 609 students in paid internships (unduplicated count)
- Average GPA of the Spring 2006 class – 3.213
- Average wage for the Spring 2006 class - \$11.33 per hour
- Total dollars earned by the Spring 2006 class - \$153,925
- Total dollars earned by all co-op / internship students to date - \$4,278,145

In the academic year-to-date, the co-op / internship program has also helped 1,478 students through both online and in-person résumé workshops. Additionally, our counselors have provided career counseling to 188 students to date during the 2005-06 school year. This counseling and guidance helps students determine their best career path.

Intern to Full-Time for Spring 2006

This semester 9 of our 49 interns placed graduated. Six found full-time positions, two are attending graduate school, and one is still seeking employment.

Graduate	Major	Employer
Croslin, Colby	BBA Management	Still seeking employment
Dyer, Nichole	BBA Accounting	Graduate School
Ford, Dustin	BBA Management	*Anderson Merchandisers
Gillmore, Jeff	BBA General Business	*BWXT Pantex
Hernandez, Paul	BBA CIS	*BWXT Pantex, pending contract approval
Peil, John	BBA/MPA Accounting	IRS
Reitz, Wesley	BBA CIS	Graduate School
Sable, Stephen	BAAS CIS	Connectrix
Sanchez, Leticia	BBA/MPA Accounting	*BWXT Pantex

*- internship employer

We also know of one student who has secured a full-time position with his internship employer while he finishes his MBA.

Student	Major	Employer
Graham, Michael	MBA	*Panhandle Region Planning Commission

*- internship employer

As you can see, internships continue to be an effective way for our students to find full-time employment in their field.

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 Comments

"My internship at the City of Amarillo has been a wonderful experience for me. I have had the opportunity to be exposed to different accounting procedures and grow in my knowledge of accounting. My internship will stay with me my entire life, and I will never forget the experience I have had working for the City of Amarillo. If I have the chance, I will recommend the same experience to any student pursuing a degree in either accounting or finance. The hands-on experience and knowledge I have gained through this internship has helped put me a step above the rest, and I would not change that for anything."

*Cassie Walls, accounting major
Intern with the City of Amarillo*

"I had an amazing time at Disney! Not only did I learn valuable work skills, such as customer service and how to handle uncomfortable situations, but I also learned a lot about myself. Living with five other girls and being a long way from home can be very challenging, but my experience at Disney has proven to me that I can accomplish many things."

"I now know I can accomplish anything, I just have to work up the courage and confidence and I can do anything."

*Jessica Carrizalez, wildlife biology major
Intern with Disney*

"I've utilized a variety of courses completed at WT to support myself in the real world. Communication, management, marketing, and computer courses have allowed me to represent the university in a very respectable manner."

*Jeff Gillmore, general business major
Former intern (now full-time employee) with BWXT Pantex*