

## WTAMU Experiential Education Program Spring 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 1,731 individual placements to date (50 in Spring 2009)
- Placed 749 students in paid internships (unduplicated count)
- Average GPA of the Spring 2009 class – 3.04
- Average wage for the Spring 2009 class - \$12.42 per hour
- Total dollars earned by the Spring 2009 class - \$143,298
- Total dollars earned by all internship students to date - \$5,838,979

To date in the 2008-09 academic year, the Experiential Education & Career Services program helped 1,082 students through both online and in-person résumé workshops. Additionally, our counselors have provided career counseling to 182 students so far in this academic year. This counseling and guidance helps students determine their best career path.

### Selected Intern Comments

“I learned a great deal about myself and the importance of different things in life when considering a career. I also learned a lot about people and will use the skills I have learned in the future.”

*Janie Wagner, Agribusiness Major  
Herring National Bank- Amarillo, TX*

“I feel I greatly enhanced my ability to problem solve...I have learned to just take everything step by step, and learn how to get through problems on my own....”

*Eric Olivarez, IDM Major  
Amarillo Design Bureau- Amarillo, TX*

“My supervisor gave me assignments that were both educational and challenging. I learned so much from this experience.”

*Cari Thompson, Accounting Major  
Brown Graham & Co.- Amarillo TX*

“I learned about the many differences between the real world and the classroom world. These differences and how to cope with them has been an invaluable addition to my educational experience.”

*Aaron Peacock, Finance Major  
Disney World- Orlando, FL*

“I would recommend this internship for any type of person. It really broadens views in many areas and many great relationships are created.”

“The knowledge and skills I have learned during this assignment will be useful to me throughout my future career. It was also important for me to be able to work in the career field I am pursuing before I graduate to gain experience and decide if this field is the right choice for me.”

*Delia Grantham, Accounting Major  
Johnson & Sheldon- Amarillo, TX*

## Intern to Full-Time for Spring 2009

This semester 11 of our 50 interns graduated. Four took full-time positions with their internship employers, 1 is pursuing graduate school, 5 are seeking employment, and we haven't been able to reach one.

<b>Graduate</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Intern Employer</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Findley, Andrea	Mass Comm- Print	KFDA TV	Seeking FT
Fontana, Danaea	Mass Comm- Advertising/PR	West Texas A&M University	Seeking FT
Green, Russell	Marketing	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	FT with Panhandle Regional Planning Commission
Johnson, Jamie	Accounting	Allied Waste	FT with Allied Waste
King, Kyle	Environmental Science	City Machine & Welding	Seeking FT
Merydith, Amber	Mass Comm	West Texas A&M University	Seeking FT
Miller, Ashley	Mass Comm- Print Media	Panache Salon	Seeking FT
Steinhoff, Emily	Mass Comm- Advertising/PR	Big Brother Big Sisters	FT with Big Brothers Big Sisters
Thompson, Cari	Accounting	Brown Graham & Co.	FT with Brown Graham & Co.
Timmens, Paul	Mass Comm- Broadcasting	West Texas A&M University	* Unable to contact
Webb, Valerie	Accounting	Stewart, Martin, Dudley & Webb	Graduate school

\* 4 phone calls & 3 emails

## 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>

## SPRING 2009 INTERNS

### 22% graduated

- 45.5% of these students have full-time positions or are pursuing a graduate degree
  - 45.5% are seeking full-time employment
- We haven't been able to reach 1 student (9%) (4 phone calls & 3 emails)

### 38% are continuing their internship

40% are seeking another internship and/or pursuing their 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!**