

West Texas A&M University

Cooperative Education / Internship Program

Fall 2004 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 for the past ten years include:

- Monitored 1143 individual placements to date (43 in Fall 2004)
- Placed 537 students in paid internships / co-op jobs (unduplicated count)
- Average GPA of the Fall 2004 class – 3.19
- Average wage for the Fall 2004 class - \$10.75 per hour
- Total dollars earned by the Fall 2004 class - \$144,714
- Total dollars earned by all co-op / internship students to date - \$3,740,163

In the academic year to date, the co-op / internship program has also helped over 578 students through both online and in-person résumé workshops. Additionally, our counselors have provided career counseling to 127 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 Fall 2004

Of the interns placed, ten were scheduled to graduate. Of those ten:

- Four graduated and are in the job search. We are assisting those students in finding full-time positions.
- Three graduated and took full-time positions with their internship employers.
- Two are a few hours from graduation and went ahead and took full-time positions with their internship employer. They will finish their degrees in the spring.
- One graduated and is starting a graduate program in the spring, while continuing in the internship.

Interns to Full-Time, Fall 2004

Josh Bell (Computer Science) - Xcel Energy
Donny Cagle (Engineering Technology) - USDA Bushland
Lana Flores (Accounting) - Maverick Boys & Girls Club
Umair Imtiaz (Accounting) - Anderson Merchandisers
Travis Rea (Engineering Technology) - Bell Helicopter

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 learned computer skills, how to run business meetings, project management, teamwork skills, and technical writing.

“I also learned my education at WT has prepared me as well as people from big schools like Old Dominion, Cal Poly, etc. It is not a question of if I can do it, but when I can do it.”

*Bob Barnhart, Mechanical Engineering Major
Intern with Toyota*

“Lana was very eager to learn and put forth great effort to complete assigned tasks with accuracy. She has learned a lot about not-for-profit accounting, budgeting, forecasting, financial reporting, and auditing.

“Lana is a very dedicated worker, committed to excellence. Her participation was vital in our budgetary and audit process.”

*Jennifer Galbraith, Director of Finance
Maverick Boys & Girls Club*

“Umair has done a great job of organizing our RTV program. He has actually worked all functions in the department and taken over all paperwork and scheduling of associates.

“Umair has done an excellent job of researching problems with vendors as well as problems within title files here at Anderson Merchandisers.

“Umair has been a wonderful addition to our staff and we look forward to working with him in the near future.”

*Frank Robinson, Return Center General Manager
Anderson Merchandisers*

“It is amazing to think I have such an impact on the lives of people....Many people from Europe have been visiting and they ask me why I smile so much. They always want to know what makes me so happy. Sometimes they even say they want to smile because of my smile. That is such a great feeling to know I made someone smile. I will never forget the time I gave a little boy a special cast lanyard pin. He came back three times to thank me and give me a hug. That is the reason the program has been beneficial to me.”

*Kristin McKinney, Education Major
Intern at Walt Disney World*

