



News Release

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INTERNSHIPS LEAD TO FULL-TIME POSITIONS FOR STUDENTS

St. Joseph, Mo. —May 19, 2003—Several students who graduated this spring from Missouri Western State College are having little trouble adjusting to their full-time jobs, because they landed positions with the companies where they completed their internships.

Many academic majors at Western require students to work in positions related to their majors, and several area businesses provide internship opportunities for students. Last year, approximately 1,500 students participated in experiential or applied learning experiences, including practica, internships, clinicals, student teaching, the student newspaper and the yearbook.

Christine Jones, a native of Weston, Mo., graduated this spring, earning a business management degree with a human resources emphasis. She completed an internship at Heartland Health in St. Joseph last December. Less than one week after her May 9 graduation, she began working full time in recruitment for the human resources department at Heartland.

“The internship helped me a lot,” Jones said. “I learned so much and built strong relationships; the transition (to a full-time position) was so easy.”

She said she enjoyed her internship, and appreciated the support of the staff at Heartland. “The people were great. They included me in almost everything.”

Jones credited Western faculty member Carol Roever of the business department for helping her land the internship position. “Without her help, I don’t think I would be where I am today. She’s been so supportive.”

Tiffany Hollon, who graduated this spring with a criminal justice/legal studies degree and a paralegal certificate, completed her internship last summer and immediately began working full time as a paralegal for Legal Aid of Western Missouri in St. Joseph.

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Hollon, a native of Milan, Mo., noted that completing an internship while attending classes was a “great combination” because the hand-on experience helped her with her classes. The internship, Hollon said, also helped her gain confidence and improve her “people skills.”

Increasing the number of students involved in experiential learning is one of the goals of the college’s five-year strategic plan. By 2007, Western plans to increase to 75 percent the total number of graduates who have participated in credit-bearing internships, practica or faculty/student projects.

According to the strategic plan, “Experiential learning offers Western students the opportunity to blend academic knowledge and its applications through learning experiences in the larger community.”

Jones and Hollon are two examples of the benefits of that learning experience.

Missouri Western State College is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The college offers student-centered, high quality instruction that focuses on experience-based learning, community service, and state-of-the-art technology. Western is located in St. Joseph, Mo. and is committed to the educational, economic, cultural and social development of the region it serves.

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