



BUENA VISTA, CLAY, DICKINSON & EMMET COUNTIES

Area employers benefit from internship program *Spencer Area Jobs Trust reimburses companies for internships*

SPENCER – Several Clay County employers recently accepted reimbursement checks from Spencer Area Jobs Trust for participating in the Student Internship Program. The program’s purpose is to give students a significant learning experience while helping employers recruit skilled workers.

Modeled from the Iowa Internship Program, which links students from Iowa schools to internships, the Clay County program accepts students from any university or college, including community colleges. To be eligible for the state program, the business must be in the field of advanced manufacturing, biosciences or information technology. The local program is available to any employer in Clay County.

“The focus of the program is to encourage employers to hire interns and establish internship programs,” said Iowa Lakes Corridor Vice President Shaun Arneson. “We encourage employers to introduce students to the area and give them a challenging and meaningful work experience. The hope is that the internship will lead to full-time employment.”

2010 was the first year for the program, and two companies participated with three interns. This year, seven companies participated with 10 interns. Companies participating this year include Veridian Limited, Williams and Company PC, Spencer Community Theatre, Kruse, Cate and Nelson, Eaton Hydraulics, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, and Iowa Lakes RC&D/Grand Ave Improvement Corporation.

Students who are within two years of graduation are eligible for the program. Two plans are available: a semester term and a summer term. The semester term, which does not have to run parallel with a school semester, must last at least 14 weeks, and the intern must work no less than 10 hours per week. The summer program must last at least eight weeks with the student working an average of 30 hours per week. A maximum of three interns per fiscal year can be granted for each company. Awards are available up to \$3,000 for any single internship. The award is managed on a reimbursement basis. Clay County employers that wish to participate in the Student Internship Program can contact the Iowa Lakes Corridor office at 712-264-3474.



Amy Howard, of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, accepted a reimbursement check from Dave Woodcock, chairman of the Spencer Area Jobs Trust, for participating in the Student Internship Program. Carrie Emgarten was the intern for Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative during the summer of 2011. Emgarten is a student at Iowa State University.



Ebony Rahe, center, of Williams & Company, PC, accepted a reimbursement check from Dave Woodcock, left, chairman of the Spencer Area Jobs Trust, for participating in the Student Internship Program. Rachel Hulstein, right, was the intern at Williams & Company during the summer of 2011. Hulstein, a Sheldon native, will graduate in December from University of Sioux Falls; Williams & Company's Le Mars branch hired her on as full-time staff after graduation.



Sheriffa Jones, executive director of Iowa Lakes RC&D, second from left, accepted a reimbursement check from Dave Woodcock, chairman of the Spencer Area Jobs Trust, for participating in the Student Internship Program. Sara Sickelka was the intern for Iowa Lakes RC&D and Grand Avenue Improvement Corporation during the summer of 2011. Mary Jean Montgomery, far right, is the membership chair and intern advisor with Grand Avenue Improvement Corporation. Sickelka is a 2011 graduate of Iowa State University, where she obtained a degree in history.



Sandie Smith, left, of Veridian Limited, accepted a reimbursement check from Dave Woodcock, center, chairman of the Spencer Area Jobs Trust, for participating in the Student Internship Program. Justin Koch, far right, was the intern at Veridian during the summer of 2011. Koch, an industrial engineering major, is a senior at Iowa State University.



Connie Goeken, second from left, executive director of Spencer Community Theatre, accepted a reimbursement check from Dave Woodcock, chairman of the Spencer Area Jobs Trust, for participating in the Student Internship Program. Ashley Mazur, left, and Meghan Vosberg, right, were the interns at Spencer Community Theatre during the summer of 2011. Both students will be seniors this fall; Mazur attends the University of South Dakota and Vosberg attends Simpson College in Indianola.



Rick Johnson, Lead Manufacturing Engineer of Eaton Corporation, accepted a reimbursement check from Dave Woodcock, chairman of the Spencer Area Jobs Trust, for participating in the Student Internship Program. Eaton had six interns during the summer of 2011, and three were eligible for the program: Derek Ebel, Megan Scot and Edwin Geerden. All three interns are students at Iowa State University.

Kruse, Cate, and Nelson, PC, received a reimbursement check for participating in the Student Internship Program. Jim Thiesse, professional engineer at Kruse, Cate and Nelson, supervised intern Brooke Baschke.

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The Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation is the regional economic development agency for Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson and Emmet counties. Its mission is to foster, encourage, aid, promote or otherwise assist in the economic growth and development of the region. For more information about the Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation, call 712-264-3474 or visit www.lakescorridor.com.