Offsite study program rocks!

Externships provide valuable experiences for Sullivan students. While participating in the externship, students can work with managers, supervisors and employees from many functional areas of an organization to attain practical experience in the workplace. The externship experience exposes the student to a variety of educational practices, procedures, being in a project team environment, along with using a variety of application software.

“The unique experience is a combination work/study program, and is an important part of the educational process,” stated Associate Professor Michael Gatewood.

Concentration options expand in Ph.D. Management program

Sullivan University recently announced the expansion of its Ph.D. in Management program to include a concentration area in Human Resource Leadership (HRL). The new program track was added to the accreditation from the Commission on Colleges and Schools, and launched in the Spring 2012 term, which began on March 26.

The university already offers programs in HRL at the undergraduate and master’s levels. These programs consistently rank as one of Sullivan University’s top programs in terms of enrollment.

Program well researched

To access interest in HRL studies at the doctoral level, Sullivan University conducted surveys of local and national members of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) earlier this year. Both groups were highly enthusiastic about educational expansion in this direction.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projected in their Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-2011, a 22% increase in HR jobs between 2008 and 2018. This percentage of increase is “much faster than average for all occupations,” the report noted.

These two things - professional interest in the degree and the anticipated growth in HR employment - were key factors in deciding to add an HRL program at the doctoral level.

The program is designed to explore the multidisciplinary aspects of HRL and enhance students’ abilities to develop and lead strategic human resource initiatives and solve real-world problems. Students are prepared for senior leadership positions in private industry, non-profit organizations, government, consulting or teaching.

About the program’s Dean

Dr. Teresa Daniel, Dean of Sullivan’s Human Resource Leadership programs, recently conducted a study to determine whether HR practitioners are the targets of workplace bullying at rates higher than other workers. Funded by a University grant, the research was published by the SHRM journal and in the Employment Relations Today journal.

Dr. Daniel will present her findings to her professional peers at the 8th International Conference on Workplace Bullying and Harassment in June in Denmark.

Externalities for Accounting majors run for a period of 110 hours during an 11 week quarter. The students are evaluated by their supervisors and two performance evaluations are completed during their externship.

Great learning opportunity

Recently, Elizabeth Miller, a staff accountant at Psimer & Associates in Lexington, Kentucky, indicated, “The biggest benefit from an externship would be the experience I received. The experience I refer to is not how to do my job, but how to be proficient at it. I learned how important organizational skills are, along with a strong work ethic, and also how important people skills are because client relations played a very large part in my experience.”

Miller went on to add, “If there was one thing I could tell prospective students, it would be to work hard and show your employers that you want and deserve to be there and you will go far.”

Other program externships

Madison Joest, Travel and Event Management student, is also participating in an externship as a Front Desk Clerk at the Best Western Parkside Inn in Frankfort, Kentucky, and is being supervised by the General Manager. “My plans are to go into Hotel Management when I graduate from Sullivan. Prior to going into this experience I was very curious about what I would be doing... We are usually busy as there are always things that need attention and things to do at a hotel.”

Faculty advisors and instructors attempt to seek opportunities that align with student interests and career areas. Location, availability and schedules go into the criteria as site opportunities are reviewed for potential learning experiences for students.

Career Fair Highlights

Bradley Birckfeld, Marketing & Sales Management, listens to employment opportunities at ACS, a Xerox Company.

The Career Services office hosted a successful Career Fair, welcoming 40 registered employers (62 recruiters) to the Lexington campus. Nearly 200 current students and recent graduates attended, and several walked away with interviews and job offers in medical office management, information technology, culinary arts, medical assisting and business fields.

Feedback from the employers who attended:

* "I felt that students were well prepared - Sullivan is one of the better career fairs that I attend." Kentucky Personnel Cabinet
* "Students were very prepared with resumes." - H & R Block
* "Awesome way to network - will do it again!" - Brookstone

Paralegal students have their day in court

Sullivan University paralegal students Shoba Lakhani, Thomas Ondrias and Amanda Trail recently worked with clients at the Fayette County Pro Bono Office’s divorce clinic. Judge Tim Phiboot, (second from left) was on hand to sign orders and attorney Rob Stith (far right), also volunteered to help clients. Paralegal students are provided with a variety of opportunities to participate in real world experiences which reinforces and supports their legal studies classroom education.

Scholarship News

Helen Bongard, Legal Studies Department Chair, proudly announced that Paralegal student, Amy Hinton, was recently honored as the recipient of the Greater Lexington Paralegal Association’s (GLPA) 2011 Scholarship. In addition to the monetary award, she also receives a free student membership in the GLPA during the calendar year of 2012. Ms. Hinton is obtaining her associate degree in Paralegal Studies.

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