

Students Learn About Career Choices Hands-On

How can you get college credit for work experience? By doing what's called an internship.

Some nineteen ACC students are interns in a variety of area businesses this semester. Volunteer Center Director Vernie Nethercut matches potential interns with businesses who are generally grateful to have student help.

Nethercut says an internship is a "good opportunity for people who want to explore careers." Interns register for one to four credits at ACC, and are in the workplace six to eight hours each week. The only requirement (in addition to paying tuition, of course) is that the placement offers a new learning experience.

Student interns benefit in a number of ways. First, internship credits count toward the student's associate degree. Also, a student frequently is able to work in a particular business which may

already be fully staffed--thus affording on the job experience where a regular job is not currently available.

Sometimes a student intern will decide a that a certain occupation definitely is (or is NOT) a good choice for a lifetime career. Many times, Nethercut noted, career plans are reinforced by the internship experience.

An internship also bridges what Nethercut called a "catch-22 gap." This is a situation where an employer wants to hire an experienced person for a position; but on the other hand, there is no way to gain the needed experience without actually having performed the required tasks. The internship solves this problem by providing hands on learning with one further PLUS: the internship program is met with acceptance by employers because it is done through the college. Since potential interns must undergo an interview and

application process, Nethercut says employers feel confident their interns will be quite dedicated to putting themselves into the work at hand. Nethercut added, this has proven to be the case.

Most internships are learning but not paid positions, though some employers elect to pay their interns.

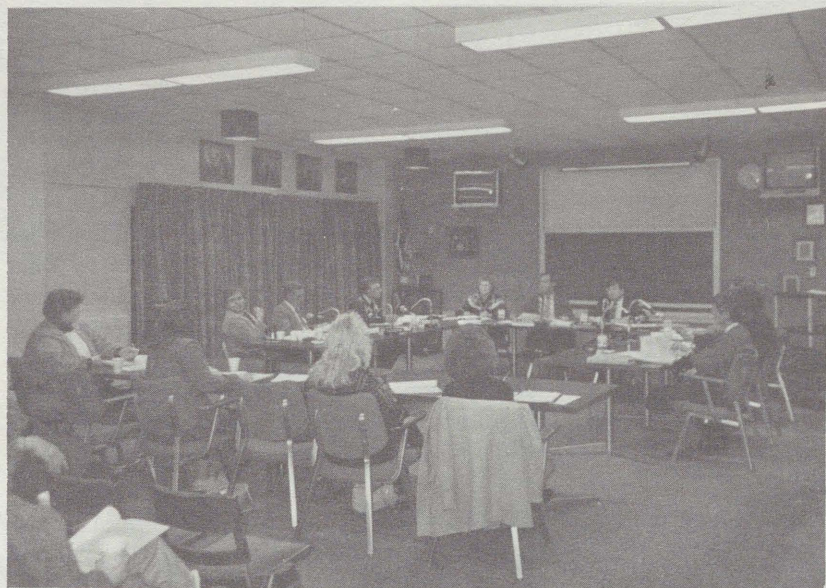
Health and business are the to most popular occupational areas for internships, Nethercut stated, though credit is currently offered in 37 different areas.

Internships may be done in any of ACC's regular semesters. Interested students should contact their academic advisor, or feel free to phone Nethercut at the Volunteer Center for more information.

Nethercut is familiar with all aspects of the program, since it was she who created, then worked to implement ACC's internship program a decade ago.

By Gayle Ayers

Improved Communication For The Future



During the February 16, Board of Trustees meeting two proposed resolutions were unanimously passed

The current telephone system, which was installed during the Fall of 1980 has been voted in favor of upgrading.

The system has been serving the college fairly well throughout the years, but as time passed the quality and quantity of the system has become a problem.

The inability to receive and relay messages, along with efficiency and continuity were mentioned as prime factors for the upgrading of the system.

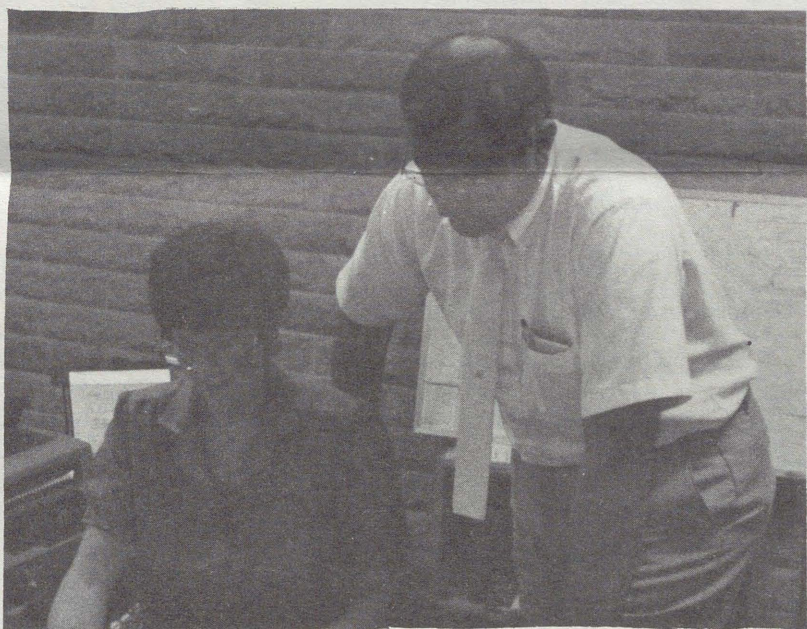
Bids were received, and GTE was announced as the low bidder. The college administration will now enter an agreement with GTE to install the new telephone system.

The existing central data processing system was purchased in 1981, and after a study of the system and its capabilities an updating proposal was given.

The low bidder was UNISYS. The Board passed a resolution for the administration to enter a five year purchase agreement, and after five years the college will own the entire system.

By Mary Bartz

Career Planning Goes One Step Further



Chuck Wiesen and secretary Margie Hunt in BTC rm 100

Finding a job and choosing a major area of study are, by means, easy tasks. The Career Planning and Placement Office is available to help with these decisions.

Chuck Wiesen, community services director, stressed that the office staff can help with career planning and job search in a number of ways. Staff members can combine career interests with the work world and academic

preparation to find a suitable career.

Wiesen provided this example: If a student wants to be an engineer but is unsure of what field to pursue, the Placement Office can offer career guidelines. These guidelines show the differences in the various fields of study as well as the academic as well as the academic requirements needed for each career selection.

Resume guidelines are also available. Students can choose a suitable resume format to meet the needs of the job offered. Personnel will help with the writing and finishing of the resume, if desired.

Wiesen stated that the office can be of help to those who decide to change majors as well as those choosing careers. Many students decide to switch academic majors and are trapped with credits that won't transfer. The Placement Office can be of assistance by reviewing the skills that the student has and applying these skills to similar areas of study.

The Placement Office can help students with career choices in relation to what classes they take, work experience, and internships.

Competition for jobs is fierce. Thus, one must know how to be "marketable" to an employer.

Yvonne Norkowski, placement coordinator, works with people in the various steps in the job search process (resume writing interviews, etc.) to fit the needs of the interested parties with the needs of the employers.

The Placement Office is located in BTC 100. The staff will be more than happy to help out with any aspect of job search and career selection at any time.

By Staci Radke



Job Hunting Made Easy

By Staci Radke

Along with the regular job assistance programs, the Career Planning and Placement Office is involved in the NMCC/PIN (Northern Michigan Community College Placement Information Network).

According to Mike Hood, acting dean of administrative services, and Chuck Wiesen, community services director, the NMCC/PIN was designed to give students and employers the opportunity to gain access to employment options outside of the area.

Through the NMCC/PIN, ACC works with seven other community colleges ranging from Escanaba to Harrison. The region includes Bay De Noc, North Central, Northwestern, West Shore, Mid Michigan, and Kirtland community colleges.

Hood states that the network operates on a CTS (Computerized Telecommunications System) out of Grand Rapids Community College on a grant from the Michigan Department of Education and others.

Job orders are filled locally first. What orders are not able to be filled are sent out to the other colleges in the network to meet the needs in their offices.

ACC may have five concrete technology students who are looking for full-time work. Traverse City may have openings in this field, but no one to fill the positions. Via the network, ACC would receive information on these positions and send the ACC students to Traverse City. This move fits the need of both the employer and the students.

Hood states that other ideas result from network meetings. New programs, such as 2+1 programs with schools such as Petoskey, are being looked into, as well as a plan to bring community colleges together at a central location for a regional career day.

The Career Planning and Placement Office and the NMCC/PIN offer a wide variety of options in career planning and job searches. Check with the Placement Office for more information.



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