



First-Ever MBS Internship Fair is a Success

The first-ever Internship Fair sponsored by the Maine Business School in January turned out to be a huge success, with approximately 100 students and more than 20 businesses participating.

“We wanted to make it easier for business students to find internships,” said Professor Nory Jones, who organized the event. “Our students need jobs and internships often lead to full-time positions.

“The companies were very happy and impressed with the students.”

Participating businesses included Hollywood Slots Hotel and Raceway, Bangor Savings Bank, Bank of America, Willis of Northern New England, Eastern Maine Development Corporation, and Affiliated Healthcare Systems.

Dressed in professional clothing and holding tightly to their resumes, students lined up at tables to speak to representatives of area businesses about internship opportunities.

“I’m interested in applying what I’ve learned in the classroom to a real-life situation,” said business student Jonathan Dow ’10. “So far, I’ve left resumes with two companies. They were encouraging.”

Kristen Morrison, ’12, said she wanted an internship so she could find out “how businesses really work.

“It will look good on my resume and it will give me some good experience,” said the business student.

Area companies which already had UMaine interns on board said after the event that the students were working out well. They praised them for their work ethic, professional attitude, and competence.

Miles Unobsky Theeman, president and CEO of Affiliated Healthcare Systems in Bangor, said his company hired its first UMaine student intern, Jason Lavigne, in 2009 to assist with a variety of marketing efforts.

“Jason works 10-15 hours a week, providing marketing media research and writing ad copy,” Theeman said. “It’s been good for us and an excellent real world experience for him. Jason gives us a set of fresh eyes and some fresh thinking. We’re looking forward to having another UMaine intern.”

William Mckechnie, vice president of Willis in Bangor, said a UMaine intern currently is learning about selling malpractice insurance to attorneys. His company now would like to hire other UMaine graduate students as interns.

Internships are a way to increase the pool of educated workers in the state, he said. The hope is to eventually hire these student interns as full time employees when they graduate.

“We’d like to keep Maine kids here in the state. More than 50 percent of our employees – both worldwide and here in our own office – are more than 50 years old.

“We’re missing a generation.”