

PRESS RELEASE



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New Service to Help Southwest Virginia College Students Locate Internship Opportunities

(Abingdon, VA) A new web site, www.internshipvirginia.org, has been designed to promote internship opportunities for regional college students in Southwest Virginia. The goal is to help more undergraduate students secure valuable internship placements while providing regional and mid-Atlantic employers with the “best and brightest” from the region. Internship Virginia will work very closely with career centers at the area colleges and universities as well as employers to provide an expanded regional clearing house of opportunities.

Directors of area college and university career centers are encouraging students to participate in internships as an integral part of their college education. Amanda Gardner,

Director of Career Services at Emory and Henry College said, *“second to actually completing the academic curriculum at a college or university, pursuing an internship is the most important thing that a student can do during their four years.”*

It is no secret that we live in a globally-competitive economy. Just as many employers have adopted new strategies for the marketplace, so too, must college students. In fact, more and more employers are expecting new college graduates to have meaningful internship experiences as a part of their undergraduate education. More and more employers also prefer to hire new employees from their internship pool. Amy Stanley, college recruiter for Alpha Natural Resources states *“Internships provide students invaluable on the job experience, a feel for the company culture and a platform to launch a career at Alpha Natural Resources. We recently enhanced our internship programs, and highly encourage college students to apply. Our ultimate goal is to hire the future leaders of our company.”*

The Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon, Virginia is the home of the Internship Virginia project that is funded through a grant from the Virginia Tobacco Commission.

For more information on Internship Virginia contact George Hiller, Director of International Business and Education Programs at ghiller@swcenter.edu or Ann Risdon, Internship Virginia Coordinator, at arisdon@swcenter.edu , phone 276-619-4374 or visit the web site at www.internshipvirginia.org.

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MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center is to strengthen the regional economy of southwest Virginia by providing higher education and professional development training of the current and future workforce.