

CAREERS NOW INTERNSHIP PROGRAM ENDS FOR SUMMER, BUT WILL SOON BEGIN ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2010

The summer 2009 Careers NOW college internship program recently came to a close for eight college students, but state officials will soon be preparing to accept applications for 2010 program participants.

Tennessee's three Constitutional Officers - State Treasurer David H. Lillard, Jr., Comptroller of the Treasury Justin P. Wilson and Secretary of State Tre Hargett - sponsor the Careers NOW program. The program was created to give rising juniors, seniors, and graduate students who are Tennessee residents or currently enrolled in Tennessee colleges or universities the opportunity to gain professional work experience in one of those three government departments.

The Careers NOW program broadens students' awareness of the history and purpose the constitutional offices have in serving the citizens of the state of Tennessee. Furthermore, students are made aware of the career opportunities available in these offices and other state agencies. The program provides the interns with opportunities to apply textbook theory to real work situations.

At the beginning of their internships, the students were asked to choose research topics pertaining to state government that would be of interest to them and also provide helpful information to their designated departments. On August 14, 2009, this year's participating summer interns gave final project presentations in the Tennessee State Capitol. They presented their final reports to an audience that included the Constitutional Officers, Departmental Division Directors and University Representatives.

In addition to preparing presentations, the interns participated in several activities throughout the summer, including shadowing staff members who currently work in their chosen fields of study, taking part in service projects at the Nashville Rescue Mission and participating in team-building exercises in communication. They also met with many top ranked government officials, including former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, who spoke with them about global health and education initiatives.

"The Careers NOW program gives participating students a better understanding of the important inner workings of government and makes them aware of career opportunities available in the government sector," said program director Ann Taylor-Tharpe, who is also Director of Human Resources for the Treasury Department. "We hope the experience helps them consider working in the government sector as a first choice."

Taylor-Tharpe added that an estimated 20 percent of Careers NOW interns have subsequently been hired for state government jobs.

The nomination cycle for selecting students for the 2010 Careers Now Program will begin in October. Students may request more information from their College/University Careers NOW representative or the Careers NOW program coordinator, Ann Taylor-Tharpe, at (615) 532-3347 or ann.taylor-tharpe@tn.gov