

State and Local

Learning for pay

Students earn money, credits on local jobs

By Gene Gentrup
Senior Editor

Planning students' work schedules around classes and college activities takes flexibility, patience and understanding — three qualities that seem to be thriving in Lincoln-area businesses, says a UNL job coordinator.

Lynn Ford said Lincoln employers exhibit these qualities because they value students' work.

Shirley Strait, assistant manager of Spaghetti Works, 228 N. 12th St., said students are "more intent, more cleaner cut and they definitely need the money so they're more dependable as far as coming to work."

Stait said about 99 percent of Spaghetti Works' employees are college students.

Strait, who started working at Spaghetti Works as a college student a couple years ago, said she knows how important a job can be.

"Some students just couldn't make it in college without one," she said.

The UNL job board, which listed 2,200 job openings between July 1984 and July 1985, filled 1,300 jobs. About 1,100 of those jobs were off campus, Ford said.

The job board is an ideal place for students to find off-campus jobs, she said.

"Students have an advantage with the job board," Ford said.

Employers are more flexible when hiring students, she said, because they know schedules change.

Ford said Spaghetti Works, Montgomery Wards and United Parcel Service "are good" about hiring college students.

In addition to part-time work, several businesses also offer internships and practicums.

UNL's Experiential Education Office placed 599 students in internship programs last year.

Millie Katz, experiential education coordinator, said most internships included jobs in the biological sciences, management, business administration and journalism. The programs were filled by juniors and seniors, she said.

Katz said businesses offer internships because the intern is not paid as much as a regular employee, the employment



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Thom McKitterick has learned to tend bar and host and manage a coffee shop during his practicum at The Cornhusker Hotel.

period is definite and the intern generates ideas to help the business.

Interns usually receive an hourly wage, have their tuition reimbursed or receive nothing but the work experience, Katz said.

Pat Espeland, assistant professor of human nutrition and health management at UNO, coordinates a working practicum in restaurant management. Three students are now involved in the program.

The practicum requirements include 480 hours of minimum work for about three months. The students start work after completing their undergraduate course work, Espeland said.

The program, now in its seventh year, has students working in all phases of restaurant management, including beverages, dining room, kitchen management, catering, accounting, marketing

and sales, personnel and security, housekeeping, purchasing, and inventory.

The Marriott Hotel, Mutual of Omaha and The Cornhusker Hotel offer work practicums through a screening process.

Elizabeth Goulden, director of human resources at Omaha's Marriott Hotel, said the working practicum is "a safe way of recruiting" for Marriott.

"We get a chance to look at the potential employee that we want," Goulden said.

Students are paid for their work and receive two hours of credit. They are graded on how they apply their classroom theory to their work experience.

Thom McKitterick, now working in the practicum program at The Cornhusker Hotel, said the practicum was "a chance to see some different management styles."

McKitterick's supervisor, operating

manager Daniel Howery, trains McKitterick in various phases of restaurant work.

McKitterick, who started in the practicum program July 15, has learned to tend bar, host and manage a coffee shop.

Employment officials say many jobs are available around Lincoln. In many cases, the employer is the one looking for college students to fill the job vacancies.

Ford said her office will sponsor a job fair Sept. 11. Fifty-seven employers from the Lincoln area will visit the UNL campus looking for potential employees. The employers will represent businesses from fast-food restaurants to retail stores.

She said her staff will mail 4,500 brochures to Lincoln businesses asking them to recruit college students.

"Our message to them is help yourself and help students too," Ford said.

600 UNL interns apply academics in workplace

By Michael Hooper
Staff Reporter

Don Welch's internship with Sen. Edward Zorinsky's office gave him "hands-on knowledge," including communication skills that he says he probably could not learn in a classroom.

The senior finance major is one of nearly 600 UNL students who were placed in internship programs last year through the Experiential Education Office.

"Internships give you an inside track into your field and puts you a

step ahead of the rest of the crowd," Welch said.

Millie Katz, UNL's Experiential Education Office coordinator, said internships give students a chance to apply what they have learned in classes.

"Internships give students a chance to explore careers, see what it is really like in that particular field, and apply the academics that they've learned in school," Katz said.

Of the nearly 600 internships offered through her office last year, 50 were related to pre-health or bio-

logical science fields. Sixty-seven were management and business related, and 43 pertained to journalism.

Katz said not all interns are paid for their work. Some have their tuition costs reimbursed, and others receive an hourly wage. Some interns receive nothing but the experience they get on the job. School credit is available for some internships.

Students interested in internships need to complete written applications from the Experiential Education Office that are screened by the office staff. Companies review

the applications and select the students they want to interview, Katz said.

That interview is the most important part of the process, she said.

"They (interviewers) look for someone who sounds interested and enthusiastic, has strong communication skills and is serious and committed to doing the internship."

Katz said students often find it difficult to talk about their strengths in the interview.

"This is partly because we've grown up in a society that doesn't boast. But the student must sell

himself and tell of his qualities," she said.

Students interested in applying for an internship through Katz's office can call 472-1452 or visit the office in 102 Teachers College.

Katz urges students to apply as soon as the first and second weeks of class this semester for fall internships.

She said students should apply for the upcoming summer internships around February and for second semester internships by October.