



SHARON KOLBET/DN  
**JENNIFER SEVERE-OFORAH, a graduate student in community and regional planning, works at the State Department of Economic Development. She has been the intern in the office since February assisting with community development grants.**

# Internships open professional world

BY JAMIE SUHR  
 Staff writer

An internship can be a useful tool to prepare students for the work force.

During internships, students receive the opportunity to gain valuable career-related experiences.

Emily Weber, student employment specialist for the Student Employment and Internship Center, said internships help in a number of ways.

She said students gain better skills and because of this experience, they are a proven commodity to an employer.

Students gain confidence that can translate into better interviews, she said. Internships also give students a chance to make contacts and develop a list of potential employers and references.

"A lot of times," Weber said, "an employer will rehire their interns, so their internship will turn into a full-time job."

Wayshalee Patel spent her summer interning at the University of Nebraska Medical Center at the tumor cell biological lab.

She said working in a high-tech laboratory helped her become more at ease with her decision to become a doctor.

"It gave me experience I couldn't get in class," said Patel, a sophomore pre-medicine and chemical engineering major. "I got to work with actual cells. It was real life we were dealing with; we were trying to find a cure."

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

graduate student Jennifer Severe-Oforah is currently interning at the Lincoln Recycling Office.

Earlier this year, Severe-Oforah had an internship at the Department of Economic Development, but the internship turned into a temporary job in which she has a one-year contract.

"The internships have shown me how to obtain more professionalism in the dynamics of the office. It helped me learn to speak and show my knowledge in a professional setting," Severe-Oforah said.

Severe-Oforah received the Department of Economic Development internship from the Student Employment and Internship Center. Through SEIC, students can list certain preferences they have in an internship.

Weber said students can determine what location they are interested in and whether they will work at an unpaid internship.

To be placed into the SEIC database, students must pay a \$20 yearly fee. After that, students are placed in a database that lists all of their information and preferences.

Weber said many companies call the office to inquire about students who can meet certain qualifications such as GPA and class level.

Jean Zeplin, operations manager for Smith Barney, 1248 O St., said the company looked at many different factors.

"We look at what type of degree the student is going after," Zeplin said. "We also look at the student's outside interests and what the student wants out of the internship."

# Graduate school preparation long

BY DAVID KOESTERS  
 Staff writer

Students need to know what they want to study and where they want to go when applying for graduate school, said Andy Strowig, who works in Career Services.

Thousands of students apply for graduate school every year, and there are many aids and resources that can help them find the perfect spot.

Students must consider the reputation of the school, potential workload, location, size and cost, Strowig said.

"Some students just aren't aware of the amount of time it takes to apply," said Strowig, the career counseling coordinator at University of Nebraska-

Lincoln's Career Services.

Strowig urges students to begin preparing at least a year in advance.

Applications and requirements will vary depending on the graduate schools students apply to and the specific program that is requested.

Graduate programs sometimes require portfolios, letters, test scores and additional applications.

Many programs require entrance exams such as the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Career Services has information on tests required to get into graduate programs.

Ginny Gross, UNL director of Graduate Admissions, aids prospective graduate students interested in UNL.

"Some departments admit on a continuing basis, and others admit at certain times during the year," Gross said.

Deadlines will vary according to departments.

According to the Graduate Admissions Guide, it is recommended that applicants make contact with their departments to learn their requirements, deadlines and funding possibilities.

Bob Copley, a second-year graduate student in the UNL theater arts department, said he did a lot of research before settling on which school to attend.

"I got interviewed from 17 universities across the country, but UNL had a far better program," Copley said.

Responses from programs will "vary with the time of year," Gross said.

She said earlier applicants at UNL usually had a faster response time and that one needs to consider the fact that departments can get bogged down during the fall and spring rush.

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