

AU students earn high marks for Wellsville Chamber summer internships

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Alfred University students are known at the Wellsville Chamber of Commerce for their ability to perform well in internships. The success continues this summer with Alfred University student Jennifer Spann, a business major from Belgrade, Maine. Students have participated in an internship, which carries both pay and credit hours, at the Wellsville Chamber of Commerce for the last 10 years. Steve Havey, executive director at the Chamber since January 2006, says that he looks for attitude and trainability in interns. "The goals of the internship are to send interns out with experience they would not have obtained in class and to promote human interaction," says Havey. "The internship is set up in a business atmosphere with more responsibility placed on the students, who are not considered interns in the traditional sense. Under this setup, challenges become easier to handle." Havey believes that alertness, intelligence, and eagerness to learn sets Alfred University students apart from others and that Alfred University provides the interns with a "fertile ground" for the things he wants to teach. Havey also notes that the internships have been very successful and that the students have taken events they have coordinated to a higher level each year. Each summer at the Chamber, two students are each assigned a major Wellsville event for which they are completely responsible. Also, they must provide a profit-and-loss statement following the event. This year, the two events were the Wellsville Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament and Clam-B-Q Golf July 15 and the Main Street Festival with over 150 vendors on July 17, part of the Wellsville Balloon Rally. Spann was responsible for organizing the Main Street Festival. Her job required her to respond to vendor applications, keep them organized, determine spots for the vendor booths on Main Street, answer questions from vendors, and set different prices for different sized booths. Spann, a business administration major with a minor in equine studies, learned about the Chamber internship at the Internship and Summer Job fair on campus last spring. She felt this internship suited her well because she enjoys communicating with people and the internship provides networking opportunities to meet people. She heard that AU students liked the internship and it seemed the most interesting. Spann says she "isn't treated like an intern and that Mr. Havey makes you want to work and makes it fun." Like class, she says the internship emphasizes responsibility. She says she enjoys the internship because "it is unique and unlike any other internship she has heard of." She highly recommends this internship to other students.