



KCEDC Presents: The Kossuth County Internship Program

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What can interns bring to *your* business?

- A reliable, hard-working employee
- New ideas & creativity
- Enthusiasm & a fresh attitude
- Knowledge to complete specialized projects
- Potential long term employee

The Intern Breakfast

Every summer the Kossuth County Economic Development Career/Intern Committee sponsors an Intern Breakfast. It is usually held at the beginning of the summer so the interns get a chance to get acquainted with each other. In the previous years, the breakfast has been held at the Isaac Walton building across from Smith Lake. Based on Intern suggestion it was held at the Algona Public Library this year on June 6th.

There were around 50 interns and business contacts that attended the breakfast. CEO's from around Kossuth County spoke at this year's breakfast. They were: Joe Annis, West Bend Elevator, Kirk Hayes, Pharmacists Mutual, Michael Haverstick, Snap-On Tools, Gary and Brian Schiltz, KOFAB, and Mike Rusch, AmberWave Communications. Each speaker conveyed different information, but overall their message was

the same. They emphasized attitude and being a team player was everything. Sometimes you start out low and have to work your way up. They too, were once interns and through hard work and a good attitude, have become

successful.

The speakers praised Kossuth County and say they are very happy with where they are today. It is a wonderful area and there are many business opportunities within Kossuth.



Included in the photo are interns and speakers who attended the Intern Breakfast on June 6th. (left to right): Front row : Sarah Schmitt, Sarah Marlow, Amanda Hilbert, Tracy Goodrich, Samara Simonson, Katie Evers. Second Row: Kirk Hayes, Mike Kuper, Todd Beisch, Ed Elbert, Mike Rusch, Gary Schiltz, Nick Evan, Dan Hancock, Dawn Doughan, Amy Janssen, Morgan Graf. Last Row: Louis Reeves, Nathan Hannover, Stuart Kennedy, Brian Schiltz, Mitch Baum, Eric Yunginger, Michael Haverstick, Joe Annis and Brian Thul.

Intern Advisory Committee

The Intern Advisory Committee is made up of several interns from different businesses around the county. They meet every other week Thursday mornings and organize future intern outings, discuss intern projects, and ways to improve the program. This year there are nine interns on the committee and they include: Mitch Baum & Amanda Hilbert - Prestage-Stoecker Farms, Krissy

Elbert, Nick Evan, and Mike Kuper-Pharmacists Mutual, Sarah Marlow-KCEDC, Amy Janssen - Algona Publishing and Samara Simonson & Nathan Hannover-Farmer's State Bank, Whittemore. This summer has been very productive. The committee has organized a golf outing for all interns, a BBQ/Volleyball outing,, compiled cost of living comparisons, updated the

KCEDC display board with current photos and quotes, and created a Newsletter informing businesses of their goals and purposes. The KCEDC Career/Intern Committee has gained wonderful feedback from this group and will utilize their suggestions to improve the Intern Program in the future. They value the input given from the Intern Advisory Committee.

Cost of Living Comparisons

Amanda Hilbert, intern at Prestage-Stoecker Farms is spearheading in attaining the information that the Career/Intern Committee will compile and format. This is an up-coming project that Amanda and the Career/Intern committee will be working on throughout the year. It will include the cost of living for the major cities throughout the U.S. in comparison to a smaller community like Kossuth County.



Stuart Kennedy, a Kossuth County Intern, is co-owner of the Bancroft Drive Inn where they make the world famous malts.

Special Thanks to:

- Sarah Marlow
- Amy Janssen
- Mike Kuper
- Amanda Hilbert

For developing the 1st Internship Newsletter!

Special Thanks to:

Prestage-Stoecker Farms for sponsoring the Intern Breakfast and meat for the Volleyball/BBQ outing.

Interns speak out

Most interns are very pleased with their workplace., and feel that Kossuth County has many opportunities to offer. Dan Hancock says "Pharmacists Mutual would be a great place to start a career." "Working here has really given me the confidence and outlook I have needed to enter into the business world", says Erica Rahe, an Intern at Central Financial.

Some interns feel that Kossuth County would be a great

"It's a good experience that will help me to prepare for the future." - Samara Simonson, Farmer's State Bank of Whittemore

place to come back to. Dawn Doughan, intern at Kossuth Regional Health Center states, "Working in a small town is very friendly and it's easy to get to know people." Todd Beisch, intern at Peterson & Lipps Law Firm, comments "Kossuth County has many fun activities throughout the year to get involved with."

If Kossuth businesses continue to give young people experience and opportunities, the county may see a refreshing change in the future. Young minds can

bring new ideas and creativeness to an old business.



Samara Simonson is very productive at Farmers State Bank in Whittemore.

Ag Career Day at Iowa State University

The Kossuth County Economic Development Corporation was among hundreds of organizations participating at Iowa State University's Ag Career Day in October. This event allows students the opportunity to connect with organizations that offer full-time jobs as well as internship opportunities.

Executive director for Kossuth County Economic Development, Maureen Elbert, said, "The availability for skilled workforce is very limited. Our

Ag Committee, along with the Board of Director's feel that our office needs to be a facilitator for encouraging both the businesses and young college students. We want to encourage them to experience an internship within Kossuth County, which could lead to future employment."

Each year over 1,000 students attend the event and KCEDC usually has around 100 attendees register at their booth and submit resumes. "We are

thrilled at the responses we get from these students. Students who presently attend ISU, and are from our area, said they'd like to come back home to live if there were jobs available," Elbert said.

Maureen Elbert confirmed, "That is where businesses and our office need to work hand-in-hand and identify what we have and keep this concept of marketing our county in the right direction." ISU's Ag Career Day began in 1975 and is one of the largest in the nation .

Intern Golf Outing

The Kossuth County Economic Development Career-Intern Committee sponsored an Intern Golf Outing at the North Kossuth Golf Club on Friday, June 28th. This event was new this year, and the turn-out was wonderful. Some of the interns were regular golfers and some just came to have fun. It was a great time for everyone, and was completely free for all interns! This was especially nice since most of us are on tight college budgets.

The North Kossuth Golf Club was the major sponsor who sent a welcoming message to all of the interns. They welcomed them to the course and let them play for free. The underlying message being that there *are* opportunities and the quality of life they may be seeking after graduation right here in Kossuth County.

After playing a round of golf, the interns enjoyed pork loin sandwiches,

fruit, chips, and lemonade. There were six other Bancroft businesses that assisted in paying for the interns' meal. They include: Bancroft Pharmacy, Bancroft Food Center, Shillington Hardware, Farmers & Traders Savings Bank, Ron Dacken & Associates Insurance and Financial Services, and Schrauth Flooring and Windows.

During the meal, there were drawings for prizes. Lucky winners won prizes such as: "Curves for Women" Duffle Bag & T-Shirt, Golf Passes from Spring Valley, River Road, and Whittemore Golf Course, Free Premier and Pizza Hut Pizza Coupons, Innovation's Salon Spa Coupons, and much more. This was just a little more evidence that interns are important and appreciated.

Following the meal, Mike Kuper, who serves on the KCEDC Intern Advisory Committee, talked about the goals and purposes of the Advisory

Committee. Their mission is for the interns to assist the KCEDC Career/Intern Committee in continually improving the internship program. This includes sharing ideas and input of what they'd like to see happen with the program and how to continue to grow and move forward.

The golf outing was a great beginning. The interns were very appreciative of the businesses that assisted in sponsoring one of their outings.



Erica Rahe, Mike Kuper, and Dan Hancock stand by as Nathan Hannover puts the ball.

Intern Volleyball & BBQ Outing at Smith Lake

There's nothing better than a competitive game of volleyball in the hot summer heat! The interns had a summer barbeque on Monday, August 5th, at Smith Lake. Prestage-Stoecker Farms donated the meat for the evening and the Advisory Committee was in charge of other supplies. It was highlighted by an invigorating game of volleyball and the main goal for the evening was to serve the ball over the net! The Intern Advisory hopes to schedule more of these fun outings for next summer.

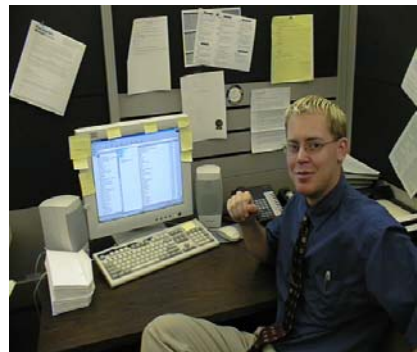
*"Smith Lake is a great asset to our County. It was nice to utilize the Lake for our Volleyball/BBQ event."
-Sarah Marlow, KCEDC Intern*



*"It's teaching me a lot about what I am thinking about doing with the rest of my life."
- Ed Elbert, Elbert Chevrolet Intern*



*"The internship has taught me about what the real world expects of me in my career more than I could ever imagine. I believe being in a smaller community allowed me to experience a variety of aspects that I wouldn't have had the opportunity for in a larger city."
-Amy Janssen, 3rd year intern at Algona Publishing*



*"Pharmacists Mutual has opened up a wide-range of opportunities for me to pursue. Having an internship can open a person's eyes to new possibilities and goals."
-Mike Kuper, Pharmacists Mutual Intern*



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KCEDC

Acres of Opportunity

We're on the Web!
www.kossuth-edc.com

Kossuth County Interns - Summer 2002

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- **Prestage-Stoecker Farms:** Amanda Hilbert, Mitch Baum
- **Ag Advisory Ltd:** Joe Bormann, Wade Kent, Elizabeth McNeil
- **Farmers State Bank:** Samara Simonson, Nathan Hannover
-
- **Kuehl & Payer, Ltd:** Eric Yunginger
- **Pharmacists Mutual:** Mike Kuper, Nick Evan, Krissy Elbert, Amanda Berg, Dan Hancock, Tracy Goodrich,
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- **KCEDC:** Sarah Marlow
- **Algona Publishing:** Amy Janssen, Katie Evers
- **Kossuth Cty Engineer's:** Nick Roethler
- **Titonka Savings Bank:** Stephanie Boyken
- **Amber Wave:** Eric Winkel, Josh Rusch, Nate Fourage
- **Central Financial Services:** Jenny Ulrick, Chelsea Wood, Erica Rahe
- **Bancroft Drive Inn:** Stuart Kennedy, Louis Reeves
- **NRCS:** Justin McGill
- **West Bend Elevator:** Brad Bristle, Jeff Gamble, Adam Laubenthal
- **Elbert Chevrolet:** Edmund Elbert
- **Kossuth Regional Health:** Morgan Graaf, Dawn Doughan, Amber Moss, Janelle Gates, Robin Beenken
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- **Peterson & Lipps Law:** Todd Beisch
- **Brian Thul Law Firm:** Sarah Schmitt
- **Advanced Crop:** Ryan Ohrtman
- **Roethler Electric:** Neil Elbert
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Bringing people back to Kossuth County

Kossuth County has many great assets, and should work together as a county to build on them. We need young people to come back to the area, but so many are leaving for various reasons. Some say that Kossuth County lacks business opportunities, or businesses aren't willing to give the young adults experience. Others say their wages are too low. For whatever reason they may have, Kossuth County needs to do what they can to bring people back.

Previously discussed were the cost of living comparisons between Kossuth County and larger communities. Based on these statistics, you can see that although a person may have a higher salary in a larger city, but the cost of living is much more expensive. Whereas, here in Kossuth County our expenses are generally very low and much more affordable. This is one advantage of our county. When Surveying area interns there are several things they like about Kossuth County. These include: The friendliness of the people, the cleanliness, quality schools and opportunities for scholarships, low crime rate, safe, great place to raise a family, community activities, and tight-knit communities who care about their neighbors.

KCEDC Career/Intern Committee Members

Adrienne Magill- Prestage-Stoecker Farms
Scott Thilges- Prestage-Stoecker Farms
Jan Capesius- Prestage-Stoecker Farms
Marilyn Deal- Pharmacists Mutual Co.
Rose Molacek- Briar Cliff University
Dr. Michael McNeil- Ag Advisory, Ltd.
Alan Witt- Prestage-Stoecker Farms
Lee Gunderson- Snap-On Tools

There are a number of attractions right here in Kossuth County as well. The Algona Aquatic Center, The West Bend Grotto, the "No-Limit" Mini Golf Course, Call State Park, Algona Family YMCA, Siem's Park in Whittemore, Smith Lake, quality golf courses and much more.

It is a common goal of the KCEDC Career/Intern Committee to gain input and Ideas from Kossuth Interns, determine

what it will take to attract people back to this area, and what young people are looking for in job opportunities and locations.

"The youth are our lifeline for the future." Executive Director Maureen Elbert said. "The leakage of our youth leaving the state of Iowa is an extremely alarming amount." Here in Kossuth county we value the quality of life, the opportunities that are here and we are making a strong effort to get the message out to our youth. They are a very valuable commodity that we can't over look,. These young people will gain experience, team work , and attitude that will be immeasurable in molding their future careers.

We need them and understand they are our future. If we are going to have a county of sustained value be it education, medical services, business opportunities and quality of life to raise the next generation. We need to seriously listen to them and assist in molding their future career opportunities. This is an extremely important program that the KCEDC Career Intern Committee is committed to!