

**KCEDC**

# KCEDC Presents: The Kossuth County Internship Program

Volume 3, Issue 1

Summer 2004

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>Host an Intern</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Positive Messages</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Internships</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>New to the Intern Program</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Wrapping Up the Summer</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>State Economic Development</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Interns Help Raise Money for Youth</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Intern Golf Outing</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Advisory Committee</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Interns &amp; Thanks</b>	<b>4</b>

## Why Should a Business Host an Intern?

Although internships help students gain practical experience that prepare them for their future careers, they also benefit area businesses in a number of ways. According to Jim Conard, President of Northwest Federal Savings Bank in Algona, interns provide his business with quality work during one of the busiest times of the year. "Our interns have provided us with high-quality work during the period of time when we need it most. Having interns to give us the extra help we need during

these busy summer months has been convenient for us," he said.

Jim first decided to become involved after attending the Countywide Breakfast. "I attended the KCEDC Countywide Breakfast last summer and heard many positive things about the program from both CEO's and interns." When asked what benefits he felt an intern gained from the experience, Jim felt that it was very important for young people to gain experience and give businesses the opportunity to see what they can offer to their community. "It's important for young business people to learn early in their careers that you've got to offer something unique or better to be successful in business.

This summer, we've employed a variety of new ideas and technologies to better serve

our customers. Our interns were involved in the planning and implementation of some unique activities, and had the opportunity to share their ideas to help make the activities successful. We've benefited from our interns' ideas, and hopefully, the experience will benefit them later in their careers," Jim stated. Conard feels that it is important to have an internship program in Kossuth County. He expressed that we need to take the opportunities to promote Iowa to young people. "Kossuth County residents have the highest average age of any county in Iowa. We need to take every opportunity we can to promote our county to young Iowans. The intern program recruits top-quality college students from throughout Iowa and showcases the high-quality life that is the reason we choose to live here

*(Continued on page 2)*

The annual Intern Breakfast, sponsored by KCEDC, had a great turn out again this year. Between interns, CEO's and business leaders there were nearly 78 people in attendance at the KC Hall on May 26th, which is where the breakfast was held this year.

The overall message: Kossuth County is a great place that has so much to offer; who wouldn't want to be here? This year's speakers were Steve Hoskins, Pharmacists Mutual; Jeff Politte, Pharmacists Mutual; Sean Noonan, Farmers State Bank; Jim Conard, Northwest Federal Savings Bank; Stacy Besch, Innovations Salon and Spa; and Lisa Louscher, teacher. Besch and Louscher both gave great messages about why one should come back to Kossuth County. In Hoskins' speech, he told the interns how he lived in Des Moines for 25 years and never had enough time to get involved in any-

thing, but people in Kossuth County are fortunate to do all the things that they want to do.

In addition, Mike Walker spoke briefly about his past and present experiences. Mike interned last summer with Prestage-Stoecker Farms and has now went on to work part-time for the company while finishing his education. Last summer while interning, he was very involved with the intern program and encouraged this year's interns to become involved themselves. He also explained the Intern Advisory Committee, and motivated all interns to join.

This year's breakfast was a great success and a great way for all the interns in Kossuth County to kick off their internships for the summer by networking with business leaders and other interns.



Pictured above are the interns who attended the breakfast on May 26, 2004. (Left to Right): Front Row - Amber Beenken, Rachel McGuire, Lisa Even, Betsy Friedrich, Gloria Ross, Keyshar Nadkarni, Jennifer Faber, Michelle Smith, Heather Fickbohm. Second Row: Erika Berg, Andrew McGuire, Wade Kent, Steve Williams, Emily O'Kane, Angela Laubenthal, Erica Ostwald, Amber Moss, Calvin Berte. Third Row: Stuart Kennedy, Jessica Hackbarth, Allison Hannover, Becky Kiewet, Amanda Berg, Justin Limbaugh, Scott Kollasch, Peter Angus, Scott Beenken.

Kossuth County is unique in this state, because it is the only county with a structured intern program. While being largely a farming community, Kossuth County provides a wealth of opportunities for young and old alike, everything

gain experience “behind the scenes” that will be useful in future careers, as they apply what they have learned in school to the day-by-day workings of a business. This year’s interns wished to share what they have learned for the benefit of future interns. Amber Moss, an

people do find themselves back in this area after their education and agree there is no better place to live, work, and raise a family.

## Positive Messages were Addressed at Intern Breakfast

from tractor pulls, annual parades, aquatic centers, to golfing. Kossuth County is also home to the Silo House, Smith Lake, Algona Prisoner of War Camp, and other area attractions.

Each year young adults flock to Kossuth County in the summer months to gain experience in their chosen fields. Businesses throughout the county represent all areas of study, including medical, banking, agriculture, accounting, marketing, and many others. Although many interns are originally from the Kossuth area and are already familiar with the region, some also come from outside the county to see what it is like. Last year there was an intern from Illinois, and this year there is one from Buckingham, Iowa. Scott Beenken had two other job offers but chose Kossuth County to experience life in a different part of the state that he was not familiar with. Scott graduates from ISU in May and says, “Coming back is a definite possibility.” All interns receive ample information about the County and its resources when they arrive at the annual Intern Breakfast; which is very useful.

Internships help young adults

intern at Kossuth Regional Health Center, said, “Because Kossuth County is made up of smaller communities, it makes it easier to meet people at work.” She learned the importance of cooperation with a diverse group of people. Erica Ostwald of Pharmacists Mutual said that she learned many valuable people skills. Deadlines were another lesson learned. “In this fast paced world, when the pressure is on, it is important to stay calm and professional.”

In order to make the most of the opportunities Kossuth County and the Intern Program has to offer, one intern stated that the Intern Advisory Committee is something she felt was a huge advantage. Since the Intern Program is intern led, it offers the opportunity to take an active leadership role in planning the intern events and the direction of the Intern Program.

While Kossuth County is the only place that hosts internships, the benefits and opportunities are evident. These internships are life lessons in a summer job, often leading to future careers. Keeping in contact with the people one meets while doing an internship can prove to be fruitful later in life, whether a person chooses to come back to Kossuth County right away or not. Regardless, many

## Top 5 Ways to Make the Most of Your Internship

### 1. Be the “Boss’s Pet”

*Be on time, use time wisely, avoid gossip, be eager to serve.*

### 2. Go Above and Beyond

*To be successful, exceed the expectations. This will benefit you in the long run.*

### 3. Display Energy and Enthusiasm

*Negativity = not as many opportunities in the future.*

### 4. Network, Network, Network

*People you meet now could be very influential in helping your career in the future. Keep the lines of communication open, even after your internship is over.*

## Wrapping Up the Summer

The BBQ this year was held at Veterans Park in Algona on July 29<sup>th</sup>. There was croquet, volleyball and other fun games. Later on we sat down for the famous Whittemore Legion burgers, cookies, and chips. The interns talked about the summer, their internships and what everyone was doing in the fall. It was a great time to end our summer interning in Kossuth County.

## Hosting an Intern

*(Continued from page 1)* ourselves. It is important to continue our intern program in order to retain the opportunity to promote our county to these potential future residents,” he said.

Jim was an intern in 1995 with Northwest Federal Savings Bank in Spencer, Iowa. At the end of his internship the owner of the bank thanked Jim and invited him to contact him in the future if he ever wanted to get back to Iowa. Jim said, “Because of that conversation and because of the great experience I had that summer as an intern, I rejoined Northwest Federal eight years later. I hope our bank’s participation in the KCEDC Intern Program will spark the interest of a future banker just as my internship experience did for me.”

## New to the Intern Program

The Kossuth County Economic Development Corporation Intern Program has been in existence for 5 years now. Over the years the program keeps growing. This year’s Internship Program included 52 interns. After interviewing a few of the new members of the Intern Program, we’ve gotten their thoughts and views of the program. Algona Area Chamber of Commerce’s intern, Becky Kiewet, had an extremely valuable experience with the Intern Program. She stated, “The Intern Program and the Intern Advisory Committee [have] been a valuable experience that I was not expecting to have coming into the internship...I would definitely recommend this Intern Program to anyone.” Executive Director of the Algona Area Chamber of Commerce, Vicki Mallory, also had a few comments about the new experience of participating in the Internship Program. Mallory commented, “Interns are benefiting from their experience by learning about the business community, multitasking and learning the importance of volunteering.” She also stated, “Everyone has to be willing to do all of the work that needs to be done- not just the fun



Left: Stu Simonson dedicates his time each year to grill Legion Burgers for the Interns at the

things and everyone includes the boss.”

Jack’s OK Tire Service is also a new member in the Intern Program. The owner, Jack Limbaugh, Jr., said his business has benefited from having an intern because they are able to do more business. In addition, Limbaugh feels interns bring expertise in areas companies may not already have; they bring enthusiasm and a refreshing change of personalities to the work place. Overall, many area businesses are benefiting from the Intern Program and the refreshing new views and ideas from interns.

## State Economic Development

Five years ago Kossuth County Economic Development Corporation took the initiative to fight the loss of rural youth and the "brain drain."

KCEDC developed an innovative program, which is the only program in the state of Iowa sponsored by a county entity. Community and business leaders have joined KCEDC in supporting these young students, as a way of attracting them back to Kossuth County.

Throughout the summer months, KCEDC's Career Intern Committee sponsors activities, facilitates an Intern Advisory Committee to develop leadership skills, and market our area businesses. In the fall attend College Career Days. Again, Kossuth County is the only county that is marketing their businesses and the great job opportunities that are available throughout the county.

KCEDC is continually posting internships on their website, as another avenue to lure the brightest to our "Acres of Opportunity." Executive Director, Maureen Elbert states, "I can see that this program has real merit and it is succeeding."



Pictured above: Ryan Ludwig, Mike Walker, Calvin Berte and Andrew

### Intern Golf Outing

A fun day for all was had by all at this year's golf outing, which took place at the Whittemore Golf Course. Interns paired with CEO's and played a 9-hole best-shot. After golfing, everyone was served pork loin sandwiches, beans and chips. There were introductions of all those that were present, along with all the interns receiving gift bags filled with goodies donated by businesses in Whittemore and around Kossuth County. Everyone had a fun time and a big thanks should go to the Whittemore Golf Course and surrounding businesses for their time and donations.

We have been able to have those that once had an internship come back and take full-time employment after graduating from college. This program has assisted in educating our CEO's, HR, and business leaders that these students have a multitude of skills and talents that they can tap into within a 3-month window of time. I am so impressed that our business leaders have really come on board and recognized these college students are the future."

Elbert continued to say, "Everyone gains...It's a time to develop relationships, learn networking skills, identify a mentor who can be a lifelong friend who can navigate you through many avenues. It's a time to learn your trade or decide an area of interest one wants to continue in. It's a time to understand the importance of team building, learn the culture and atmosphere of a business. All in all, it can be a real learning experience that has both positive and negative experiences."

Because KCEDC is the first of its kind in developing a program to enhance both the interns and businesses, it has been selected by ISU Community Vitality Center to mentor three metro communities on the KCEDC Intern Program. Kossuth County

Economic Development Corporation is being recognized statewide for this program and for its commitment to invite our youth to look at a county that does have "Acres of Opportunity."



Pictured Above: The Intern Advisory Committee, at a biweekly meeting, preparing for the Intern BBQ and working on the Intern Newsletter.

## Interns Help Raise Money for Youth of Kossuth County

On Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup> the Intern Advisory Council worked at a food stand during the Algona Sesquicentennial. We volunteered our time to help raise money for Kossuth Connections. Interns, advisors of Kossuth Connections and some youth of Kossuth County all pitched in a helping hand to make the food stand a fun and successful venture. Pork patties, pork chops, brats, chips and soda were all served to hungry Sesquicentennial goers.

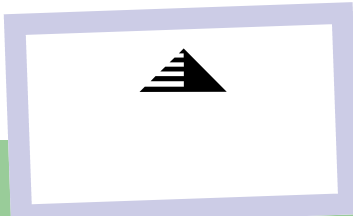
Kossuth Connections is an organization that strives to make Kossuth County a better place to live. The president of Kossuth Connections, Todd Holmes, said their mission is to make Kossuth County a safe, healthy, drug and crime free place to raise children, work and live. A survey was taken throughout the county and found that one of the most problematic areas of the county is its youth. Now that they know there is a need for this type of program they are trying to provide activities that are of interest for the youth. The youth provide them with the ideas; they are there just to provide the means.

Kossuth Connections is working to implement several things. One of these things is a smoke free environment in all the city parks in Algona. This is being done

in an effort to try to cut down on underage smoking. Another project they are trying to implement is a keg registration program. This would give the authorities a chance to identify who provided alcohol for underage drinkers and help cut down on underage drinking in the community. The youth of Kossuth County is the current concern for Kossuth Connections, but in the future hopes to have programs to help all age groups in Kossuth County.



Pictured above: Justin Limbaugh, Amber Moss, and Jamie Roethler volunteer by serving at the Kossuth Connections Stand during the Algona Sesquicentennial



Kossuth County Economic Development Corporation  
105 North Hall Street  
Algona, IA 50511

Phone: 515-295-7979  
Fax: 515-295-8873  
Email: kcedc@ncn.net

**KCEDC**

*Acres of Opportunity*

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.kossuth-edc.com](http://www.kossuth-edc.com)

This summer's edition of the Kossuth County Internship Program Newsletter was made possible because of the hard work of the Intern Advisory Committee.

- ~Amber Beenken      ~Scott Beenken
- ~Amanda Berg        ~Erika Berg
- ~Heather Fickbohm    ~Becky Kiewet
- ~Justin Limbaugh     ~Amber Moss
- ~Rachel McGuire      ~Emily O'Kane
- ~Jamie Roethler

**Kossuth County Interns - Summer 2004**

- **Algona Chamber:** Rebecca Kiewet
- **Algona Publishing:** Jennifer Faber
- **Amberwave:** Eric Winkel, Joshua Rusch
- **Bancroft Drive Inn:** Stuart Kennedy, Louie Reeves
- **City of Algona:** Angela Laubenthal
- **Elbert Chevrolet:** Edmund Elbert
- **Farmers State Bank:** Allison Hannover, Jessica Hackbarth
- **Innovations Salon & Spa:** Katie Omdahl
- **Jack's OK Tire:** Justin Limbaugh
- **KCEDC:** Amanda Berg, Heather Fickbohm, Jamie Roethler, Steve Williams
- **Kossuth County Engineer:** Steve Williams
- **Kossuth Reg. Health Ctr.:** Jason Kollasch, Amber Moss, Lisa Plathe, Lisa Jesme, Elizabeth McPeak, Keyshar Nadkarni
- **Kuehl & Payer, Ltd.:** Nick Roethler
- **Northwest Federal Savings Bank:** Rachel McGuire, Emily O'Kane
- **Peterson & Lipps Law Firm:** Calvin Berte
- **Pharmacists Mutual:** Erika Berg, Amanda Berg, Sara Berg, Andrew McGuire, Lisa Even, Gloria Ross
- **Prestage Stoecker Farms:** Amber Beenken, Scott Beenken
- **Pioneer Hi-Bred:** Wade Kent
- **Security Savings Bank:** Peter Angus
- **Titonka Savings Bank:** Ashley Boyken

**The Kossuth County Interns would like to thank the following area businesses for their generous support and donations:**

- ~AFECO
- ~A.I. Processors
- ~Algona Good Samaritan
- ~Algona Municipal Utilities
- ~Algona Publishing
- ~Algona Family YMCA
- ~AmberWave
- ~ATC Cablevision
- ~Bank of America
- ~Blacktop Services
- ~Brian Thul Law Firm
- ~Bonnstetter Auto Body
- ~Cornbelt Power Coop
- ~Country Side Catering
- ~Curves for Women
- ~Daily Grind
- ~Dairy Queen
- ~Elbert Chevrolet, Inc.
- ~Ernie Williams
- ~Farmers Savings Bank
- ~Farm & Home Services
- ~Godfathers
- ~Hutzells
- ~Hy-Vee
- ~Innovations Salon & Spa
- ~Iowa State Bank
- ~Jim Gage, CPA
- ~Johnnys
- ~Kemna GM
- ~Kossuth County Conservation
- ~Kossuth Regional Health Center
- ~KW Transport
- ~Lynch Livestock
- ~Maggie B's
- ~Max Yield Cooperative
- ~McDonalds
- ~Northwest Federal Savings Bank
- ~Northwest Communications
- ~Pharmacists Mutual Ins. Company
- ~Pitchers
- ~Pizza Hut
- ~Premier Pizza
- ~River Road Golf Course
- ~Roethler Electric
- ~Supplies N 'More
- ~Schmitt Hardware
- ~Subway
- ~Security State Bank
- ~Spring Valley Golf Course
- ~The Naked Bean
- ~Titonka Savings Bank
- ~Whittemore Independent
- ~Whittemore Frozen Foods
- ~Whittemore Betterment Committee
- ~Whittemore Golf Course

