It’s almost here!

Mi-ACE and MC-ICE Joint Conference
Thursday, June 4 – Friday, June 5, 2009
The Inn at Bay Harbor
www.innatbayharbor.com

Check inside for the program for Mi-ACE and MC-ICE Conference in Bay Harbor

You won’t want to miss it!
Message from the President

We continue to do great things to support and promote cooperative education and internships in our state and region. We did a fantastic job hosting the MCEIA conference in Detroit this last November. The Atheneum Hotel was a perfect location to celebrate the 25th anniversary of MC-ICE.

We held the Internship and Co-op Challenge at Kettering University and had a great day. We had student teams from both academic institutions and employers. Peter Basso and Associates, a returning participant in the event, took home the trophy. We are looking forward to the event this year scheduled on August 7th. We send a special ‘thank you’ to Kettering University for hosting this event for us again this year. Please check out the MC-ICE website for more information www.mcice.org.

It is time to renew your membership with MC-ICE. Check out the website at www.mcice.org for more information and renewal forms. Don’t forget to utilize the Internship/Co-op Finder on the MC-ICE website. It is a great resource to find school contacts and their available programs.

The conference this year is going to be filled with great information for everyone. The committee has worked very hard to put together a great event and we are looking forward to being at the beautiful Inn at Bay Harbor June 4-5. Thank you to this year’s conference committee for all of your hard work. Please check out the MC-ICE website for more information www.mcice.org.

We will be discussing a proposal to consolidate MC-ICE and Mi-ACE effective June 2010 at the annual meeting June 4th. Information regarding the consolidation will be emailed to the listserv and a vote will take place at the MC-ICE Board Meeting in Bay Harbor.

I thank everyone who has attended the board meetings and encourage you all to attend when you can. It is a great way to support your profession and the mission of the organization. The next board meeting will be at the annual conference in Bay Harbor June 4th and then July 15th at the Sheraton Lansing. I would also like to thank the members of the Executive Committee for their dedication and support. A special thanks to Brian Partie who served as Recording Secretary. Brian chaired the conference this year and has agreed to chair the conference in again in 2010. Thanks to Nancy Stupsker and Diane Grimord for their many years of continuous service as Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary. I also want to thank Bob Penkala for his support as Past President and Patti Jones who is taking over at President. We will be holding elections at the annual meeting in Bay Harbor and I encourage you to become involved.

Thank you for a great year. See you Bay Harbor!

Lisa Phillips
2008-2009 MC-ICE President
Mi-ACE and MC-ICE Joint Conference
“Building Relationships”
June 4-5, 2009

The Inn at Bay Harbor
www.innatbayharbor.com / 800-462-6963

Conference Registration:
Members: $90
Non-members: $120

New Member Session:
Thursday, June 4: $20
(11:30 am – 1:00 pm Lunch with Executive Board Members)

Conference Registration Deadline: May 3, 2009

Name______________________________

Title______________________________

Organization______________________

Address___________________________

City________________State__________Zip Code__________

Phone Number______________________

E-mail____________________________

Current Member? _____ MI-ACE _____ MC-ICE _____ Contact me with member information

_____ Yes, I would like to attend the New Member Session. I have included an additional $20 in my check.

Please send registration with a check payable to Mi-ACE to:

Central Michigan University
Career Services, Attn: Lynn White
215 Bovee University Center
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859
989-774-2091 / lynn.white@cmich.edu

An e-mail receipt and registration confirmation will be sent.

Kristy Berak McDonald, Mi-ACE Conference Co-Chair / 231-995-1120 / kmcdonald@nmc.edu
Brian J. Partie, Jr., MC-ICE Conference Co-Chair / 989-774-3068 / brian.j.partie@cmich.edu
Highlights of the Mi-ACE & MC-ICE Joint Conference

Thursday, June 4, 2009

11:30—1:00 New Member Session with Lunch
   EBoard Members and Conference Committee
1:30– 3:00 Welcome and “Vision for Innovation in Technology”   Barry Dahl

3:15 –4:30 Breakouts
   Innovation in Technology
   Building Campus Relations
5:00  Awards Ceremony

Friday, June 5, 2009

9:00 a.m. “Vision for Future Employment: Global Marketplace/Generations”
   Maxine Lauer

10:45 a.m. Mi-ACE & MC-ICE Business Meeting

Noon  Lunch with panel of Outreach Organizations:
   Ann Arber Spark: Amy Cell
   CAR: Kristin Dziczek
   West Michigan Alliance: Cindy Brown
   TAPET: Nancy Johnson
   Fusion: Christianne Sims

2:15 p.m. Film Industry
   Harold Cronk (Ten West Studios) and Dori DePree (TicTock Studios)
Mi-ACE and MC-ICE Joint Conference
“Building Relationships”
June 4-5, 2009

The Inn at Bay Harbor
www.innatbayharbor.com
800-462-6963

Resort Accommodations:
Ranging from a Studio - $117.00
to a Master Suite - $183.00
Complete and return attached reservation form
to The Inn at Bay Harbor.

Conference Registration:
Members: $90
Non-members: $120

New Member Session:
Thursday, June 4: $20
(11:30 am – 1:00 pm Lunch with Executive Board)

Conference Registration Deadline:
May 3, 2009
Complete and return attached reservation form
to Lynn White.

- Approximately 130 career services professionals, internship/cooperative education practitioners and employers
- Welcome Reception and Awards Ceremony with Cocktails and Hors D’oeuvres on the resort terrace overlooking Lake Michigan
- Breakout sessions to include: Building Campus Relations and Careers within the Film Industry
- Panel: Hear from individuals representing various Michigan consortia, such as: Ann Arbor Spark, CAR, West Michigan Alliance, TAPET, Fusion, and the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce
April 9, 2009

Dear Internship & Co-op Supporter:

Greetings from the Michigan Council for Internships & Cooperative Education (MC-ICE). MC-ICE is a non-profit Michigan corporation composed of organizational members from two- and four-year Michigan colleges and universities, Michigan business and industry, Michigan labor organizations, Michigan school districts and educational associations, and State of Michigan departments and agencies that are dedicated to working together for the advancement of internships & cooperative education.

MC-ICE would like to invite your organization and your intern/co-op students to participate in the sixth Michigan Internship & Co-op Challenge. The Michigan Internship & Co-op Challenge is a fun-filled day of various contests (some athletic, some intellectual, some artistic and some just plain goofy!) among company or university-sponsored teams in competing for a traveling trophy. The purpose of the event is to provide a forum for intern/co-op students from throughout the State of Michigan to meet, network, have fun and promote the benefits of internship/co-op programs. The winner of our last event was the team sponsored by Peter Basso & Associates.

The event will be held on August 7, 2009 on the campus of Kettering University in Flint, Michigan. Teams will consist of six (6) members each with the minimum of two (2) participants of each gender. Participants must currently be students and be working in an internship/co-op role at the time of the event, or have done so within the past year. Each team is also required to have a company/school "representative" present at the event who is a full-time employee of the organization they are representing. Team registration fees are $50 per team and can be company/organization or university/college sponsored. More than one team per organization is welcomed and encouraged!

Events that are planned will most likely include a company/school skit, basketball shootout, trivia challenge and several more. Points will be awarded in each event, and the team with the highest score at the end of the competition will be awarded a traveling trophy/ plaque. T-shirts and lunch will be provided for all participants.

A company/school interest form is attached which can be filled out and mailed or faxed back to Joan Sullivan of Kettering University. Please return this form by June 4, 2009. A more detailed description of events, rules and schedules will be mailed out to all interested parties in July. This will include a form to declare rosters, entries for each event, and maps/directions to Kettering University. Team entrance fees can be paid at that time.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact me at (734) 936-5784 or davethom@isr.umich.edu. We hope that you will decide to participate in the Michigan Internship & Co-op Challenge. Our last event was a blast and we anticipate another fun-filled, eventful day for all!

Sincerely,

David L. Thomas

David L. Thomas, ICPSR
Michigan Internship & Co-op Challenge Committee
Michigan Council for Internships & Cooperative Education
Michigan Internship & Co-Op Challenge 2009

August 7, 2009
Location: Kettering University, Flint, Michigan

Please provide the information requested below:

Name: ____________________________________________

Title: ____________________________________________

Organization: ____________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

Phone: __________________ Fax: __________________

Email: ____________________________________________

_____ We are interested in participating in the Michigan Internship & Co-op Challenge 2009.

_____ Number of teams you plan to sponsor (6 members per team, minimum of 2 participants of each gender, 1 organization representative per team)

_____ We cannot form our own team but have students who are interested

_____ Number of students who would like to participate

_____ We would like to help sponsor this event, either monetarily or otherwise

Please fax or mail form by June 4, 2009 to:

Joan M. Sullivan  
Cooperative Education Manager  
Kettering University  
1700 University Ave.  
Flint, MI 48504

Fax: 810.762.9837  
Email: jsulliv1@kettering.edu (Subject Line: MC-ICE Challenge Registration)

Revised 3/04/09
Did you miss this one? It is important for experiential learning everywhere.

Ohio Chancellor Seeks Proposals to Create Largest Statewide Co-op and Internship Program in the U.S.

*Initiative designed to attract and retain Ohio’s best talent*

COLUMBUS – Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric D. Fingerhut today requested proposals for the *Ohio Cooperative Education and Internship Program*. The proposals solicit colleges and universities, in collaboration with community and business partners, to establish and expand cooperative education (co-op) and internship programs throughout the state. The $250 million commitment over the next five years – $50 million for each fiscal year, beginning in 2010 – will create the largest statewide co-op and internship program in the U.S.

As part of Governor Strickland’s Ohio Bipartisan Job Stimulus plan, a $1.57 billion package designed to create new jobs while laying the foundation for future economic prosperity in the state, the *Ohio Cooperative Education and Internship Program* will provide world-class experiential learning for Ohio students across all disciplines and attract outstanding students from all over the world. The program will also assist in more than doubling the number of students participating in co-ops and internships in Ohio in an effort to retain the best talent upon graduation from college.

As outlined in the 10-year *Strategic Plan for Higher Education*, co-ops and internships are extremely beneficial for students, businesses and Ohio’s public colleges and universities. The direct benefits for students include making college more affordable, providing real world experience and skills needed for employment and an opportunity for a job after graduation. Businesses seeking skilled employees can greatly increase the available talent pool by offering co-op and internship arrangements with colleges and universities, whose goal is to attract the best talent and train the employees of tomorrow for Ohio’s businesses.

"Co-ops and internship programs have a definite and tangible educational value to our students when they participate," said Chancellor Fingerhut. "Many, if not most, lead to permanent jobs after graduation. This program links them to targeted industries. They will help reverse the brain drain of talent leaving Ohio, and will benefit Ohio employers in worker recruitment."

Programs funded through the *Ohio Cooperative Education and Internship Program* must be designed to meet the following goals: 1) create meaningful linkages to Ohio businesses, 2) attract non-Ohioans and former Ohio residents to the state, 3) retain more graduates in Ohio, 4) provide Ohio businesses with highly skilled workers, and 5) increase business utilization of students as interns or co-operative learning participants.

Two types of grants are available through the RFP:

**Experiential Learning Impact Grants**

*Experiential Learning Impact Grants* will be awarded to high quality proposals that develop and expand the availability of co-op/internship opportunities that serve the program goals in local, regional or industry-specific contexts. Some examples of the type of programs funded under this grant would be degree programs with a built-in cooperative learning feature, research laboratory partnerships apprenticeships, internships for credit and employer training.
High-Impact Grants

High-Impact Grants will be made to applicants whose proposals have a significant statewide or regional impact. Proposals for these grants will be judged based on their innovation and success at integrating co-op/internship funding into other priority state investments to create a density of related and integrated activity in support of Ohio’s higher education and economic development goals. Such proposals should seek to specifically advance the program’s goals – for instance, attracting Ohioans back to Ohio – and will focus on growing and emerging industry areas as identified in the Department of Development Strategic Plan.

Timeline

The Ohio Cooperative Education and Internship Program RFP requires that all interested parties submit a Letter of Intent via email to skaplanov@regents.state.oh.us by 2 p.m., Thursday, April 16, 2009. The RFP then requires that all proposals be submitted by 2 p.m., Thursday, April 30, 2009, in order to be considered for funding.

The Chancellor will convene an external review panel comprised of experts in co-ops and internships and who are not affiliated with potential applicant institutions. The panel will review each proposal and submit recommendations to the Chancellor, who will make the final determination of awardees in consultation with the Ohio Co-op and Internship Advisory Committee.

The RFP will be discussed during an upcoming “Bidders Videoconference.” The Bidders Videoconference provides an opportunity to review and discuss the intent and purpose of the RFP, the requirements of the RFP, the evaluation process that will be used to help determine awardees, and affords proposing schools and businesses the chance to ask questions about the RFP and process.

A copy of the RFP, as well as information on how to register for the Bidders Videoconference can be found at http://www.uso.edu/opportunities/partnership/internships/.

Obviously the dates have expired for this year’s grants in the above article, BUT isn’t it a good set of ideas for Michigan to pursue?

Hot off the press

Here is a quick update about the essay contest. This year's entries were submitted electronically and the totals were as follows: We had 28 entries submitted from the following schools:

Central Michigan University, University of Michigan Dearborn-7, Grand Valley State University-2, Henry Ford Community College-2, Macomb Community College-1, Saginaw Valley State-2, University of Detroit Mercy-2, Wayne State University 2 and Western Michigan University 2.

WOW!!!!!!!
An important note from Maureen Johnson!!

Dear Colleague:

The time has crept upon us to renew your membership with Michigan Council for Internships and Cooperative Education (MC-ICE) for 2009 – 2010. And there has never been a better time to continue your involvement. As our name suggests, we are an organization on the move to aggressively support internships and co-op programs within the state of Michigan.

There are many benefits to being a member of MC-ICE. Membership allows you to engage in professional activities and be as involved as you want or assist with a one time project. It’s your choice! Here are some of the features of MC-ICE:

- Annual Conferences
- Drive-In Workshops
- Exciting committees
- Michigan Internship and Co-op Challenge
- Opportunities to network with career services contacts and employers

A Personal Invitation

I would like to personally invite you to join MC-ICE. Our organization has changed dramatically and has earned your consideration. With a strategic plan well into the implementation stage, there is direction, insight, coordination, and collaboration that is making it all come together.

Don’t put it off another moment so that you can get the full benefit of your year’s membership. Membership runs from June 1st through May 31st. Join your academic and employer peers in further building the 21st Century MC-ICE. The deadline to submit your membership information and still get it in the directory is May 31, 2009. Receipt of payment may follow. Use the attached membership application or contact: Membership Chair, Maureen Johnson, at 313-577-3390 or maureen.johnson@wayne.edu.

Maureen Johnson  MC-ICE Membership Chair
Wayne State University Career Services 1001 FAB Detroit, MI 48202
313- 577-3390
313-577-4995 fax
www.careerservices.wayne.edu
Tim Velazco has been through job interviews before, and he followed the usual steps when he met with architectural firms in Ohio recently. He put on his best suit, tried to make a good impression and hoped for the best. It’s fair to say, however, that Velazco thought the cards were stacked against him even before the interviews began.

“They even said we’re probably not going to hire anyone, but we’re not really sure,” Velazco recalls. Velazco, who is pursuing a master’s degree in architecture at the University of Cincinnati, is among thousands of students seeking jobs through cooperative education programs across the country this spring. As the job market tightens for even the most seasoned of professionals, students are finding doors slammed in their faces, and universities -- especially those like Cincinnati for which co-op programs are central -- are scrambling to deliver on the promise of programs that seek to blend real-world work experience with time in the classroom.

“Honestly, I didn’t feel the effects of the economy that I’d heard so much about on the news until I had to find this job,” Velazco said.

Velazco ended up landing a job in Lexington, Ky. -- a location that was farther from home than he’d hoped. He entered into a six-month lease for a one-bedroom apartment, and now says he’ll be lucky to break even on the venture.

“It’s really very difficult,” he said. “It’s not an ideal process, I have to say.”

Hiring for co-op positions is expected to drop by 11 percent this year, the biggest decline since at least 2004, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers. The tightening job market is having an impact on even the most well-established and well-connected co-op programs in the country.

Officials at Cincinnati, which hosts the longest-standing co-op program in the United States, say that even their program is not immune to the downturns that have employers backing out of longstanding arrangements to hire students. The university, which has 100 students still looking for positions right now, expects to find jobs for about 82 percent of students seeking co-op positions this year; that’s down from a typical placement rate of 99.5 percent.

At Cincinnati, a number of majors require students to complete 18 months of cooperative education before graduation. Program coordinators provide waivers if landing a job proves impossible, but it’s something they try to avoid.

“We’re getting very creative and pulling out all stops [trying to link students to jobs],” said Cheryl Cates, director of Cincinnati’s Center for Cooperative Education Research and Innovation. “We’re working way harder than we have had to in the past.”
University officials have joined social networking sites aimed at particular industries, reaching out to employers who have never participated before to help replace those who’ve opted out this year. Jobs for architecture students have been particularly hard to find, and the university tapped new resources this year to try to find placements for students like Velazco.

Alex Christoforidis, a Cincinnati faculty member who helps architecture students in the co-op program, took a new approach this year. He contacted officials with Reed Construction Database, which tracks construction projects across the country, and convinced the company to let him use the database for a week at no cost. A year of access could have cost the program as much as $20,000, and that wasn’t possible, Christoforidis said. With access to the database, Christoforidis gained a glimpse into the troubling state of the construction industry. He came across firms that had millions -- even billions -- of dollars in current projects, but no projects in the planning stage. In other words, giant, well-established firms have no prospects for work and are more likely to be laying people off than hiring anyone. Even so, Christoforidis helped place all but one of the more than 50 students he was working with this quarter.

“It tells me that as bad as it’s been … the fact that they are able to get at least a temporary job for six months or so is encouraging,” said Christoforidis, an assistant professor in Cincinnati’s division of professional practice.

**Students Get Glimpse of Tough Times**

With so many companies falling on hard times, it’s plausible that co-op students will find jobs with employers that only recently laid off longtime workers. Students often work for a fraction of the cost of full-time employees with more experience, so it’s not without precedent for students to enter a company where nerves are still raw from the latest round of pink slips.

Dianne Markley, director of Cooperative Education and Internships at University of North Texas, said co-op programs should prepare students for the possibility that co-workers might initially resent their hiring.

“We tell the student to be aware of it and not to make a big to-do about his or her presence there,” said Markley, chair of Cooperative and Experiential Education Division of the American Society for Engineering Education. “You may be working alongside people who have just watched a colleague of 20 years walk out the door … and the next day here comes this fresh-faced college student.”

By the same token, students are getting a window into the difficulties faced by so many in the current economy. Michael Malarik, a senior at Clemson University, said the last weeks of his co-op stint with Alcoa Inc. were difficult to watch.

“While I was there, the orders coming in for the [aluminum] product were just constantly decreasing, and layoffs were in the air,” he said. “They were already offering permanent employees early retirement packages.”

It was therefore no surprise to Malarik when he learned Alcoa would not continue to participate in Clemson’s co-op program this summer. Malarik, who had planned to work at Alcoa again, found himself looking for another job. While he found another position, the process was much more difficult. Dozens of companies that had once courted Clemson students decided against participating this year.
“This semester has been a nightmare,” said Neil Burton, director of Clemson’s cooperative education program. “We’ve got a terrific group of kids and the industry is unable to offer our kids any opportunities.”

Clemson has already seen about a dozen companies actually release students from employment because of economic struggles, and co-op positions in the automotive industry have been particularly difficult to maintain. Clemson has come to rely, for instance, upon auto manufacturers like BMW that have established operations in South Carolina in recent years. With car sales falling dramatically, those companies and their suppliers are less inclined to hire students.

“When the automotive industry tanked, we really took a pretty sizable hit,” Burton said. “That’s one area where Clemson might be suffering a little bit more.”

Auburn University’s cooperative education program is also heavily tied to automotive jobs, and placements have gotten more difficult there as well, according to Kim Durbin, director of the program. For the first time in recent memory, representatives from Alabama’s Honda plant did not appear at Auburn’s career fair for cooperative education in March.

“No co-op student has lost their job there [at Honda], but they’re just not adding to their co-op ranks,” Durbin said.

Auburn normally places about 50 percent of students who express interest in cooperative education positions, but Durbin expects to fall short of that placement rate this spring. Those who do land jobs may find that what they get wasn’t their first choice.

“When you’ve got a market that the supply and demand is not as much in your favor as it once was, then being more flexible about when you can go [and] where geographically you can work becomes more important,” Durbin said. “And your credentials need to be as attractive as possible. It’s more important that you be in a major that companies ideally want.”
Report from Patti Jones

I'm happy to pass on some news about Intern in Michigan, the statewide internship initiative that I worked on during my time at the Chamber. As of today, there are approximately 85 internships posted, 1950 students and 260 employers on the site. Below is a list of media coverage pertaining to the launch that resulted from the official announcement last Thursday, April 23.

By the way, I'm back at UM-Dearborn and my contact info is below. My replacement at the Chamber is Britany Affolter-Caine. Her number is 313.596.0432.

--Patti

TV:
- WMYD-TV, Channel 20 - “My News 20 at Ten” report by Jorge Avellan. April 23, 2009
- WXMI-TV, Channel 17 (Fox -West MI)

Radio:
- WDET-FM 101.9 - “WDET News” report by Brian Larson. April 24, 2009
- WRJ-AM 760 - “The Big Story” report by Ken Rogulski. April 23, 2009

Print:

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