

For Immediate Release

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Union Bank Grant Supports 13 Student Interns from Johnson State College

JOHNSON, VT -- Thirteen Johnson State College students completed internships and field experiences with area businesses, schools and nonprofit organizations during the spring 2015 semester with financial support from the Union Bank of Morrisville.

The students received \$75 to \$500 each from the new JSC Student Internship Fund, which was launched in January with a \$3,000 grant from Union Bank. Funds were allocated to students with financial need who otherwise would not have been able to benefit from these experiences due to the expenses associated with them, including transportation to and from work sites, fees for background checks and conferences, and the cost of necessary safety equipment.

Grant recipients included students majoring in biology, fine arts, music education, psychology, wellness and alternative medicine, business management, political science, and physical education. Internship job titles and host sites included research assistant (Vermont Department of Health), medical assistant (NOTCH Alburgh Health Center), resident counselor (Maple Leaf Treatment Center), massage therapist (Pyramid Massage Program), business consultant (Apple Tree Learning Center), legislative intern (Vermont State House), marketing intern (Wilkin's Harley Davidson), case manager (Lamoille Family Center/LINK program) and marketing design intern (Great Big Graphics.)

JSC student Kayla Thomas, who worked with the Lamoille Family Center as a case manager intern and earned high praise from her supervisor, Nancy Pope, said the experience enabled her to apply the skills she had learned in her psychology classes to real life. "I now feel prepared to work as a case manager with youth," she commented.

"This grant helped our students to participate in an internship and to test drive their careers, gain work experience and confidence," said Ellen Hill, JSC's internship program coordinator. "We value the support of the Union Bank both as a generous donor and as a fantastic internship-placement site. Results from our 2014 graduate survey indicate that 45% of the students who interned were offered a job or were hired at their site, and another 25% were hired elsewhere because of the experience gained."

Johnson State College students work as interns with businesses, nonprofit organizations and government agencies in Lamoille County and throughout the U.S. In the 2014-2015 academic year, 205 JSC students interned for a total of 53,677 hours, earning 878 college credits taking on such roles as a legislative intern at the Vermont State House, an accounting intern at Butternut Mountain Farm, a probation officer intern at Rutland Office of Probation and Parole, and a Community Support Mentor at Laraway Youth and Family Services.

For more information, please contact Ellen Hill, Internship Program Coordinator, at ellen.hill@jsc.edu or 635-1439.

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