

Eastern interns work in Windham's economic development department

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CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

WINDHAM/WILLIMANTIC — Three college interns are putting in work in Windham's economic development department.

Francesco Ricigliano, Erica Davidson and Leigh Generous are three Eastern Connecticut State University interns serving the town of Windham Economic Development Department.

The students started working in the office on administrative duties, but then transitioned to working with businesses and town staff on economic development.

The three students are all Eastern seniors planning to graduate in May.

Ricigliano is a political science major.

He is originally from Southington, although he also spent years living in Italy.

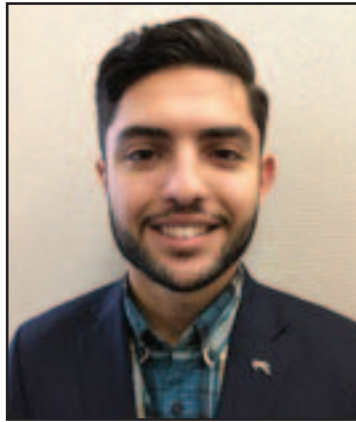
After graduation he plans to spend some time traveling. After that, he hopes to earn a master's degree in international management, possibly from a school in Italy or Europe.

Ricigliano said he has enjoyed learning more about the small businesses that thrive in Windham and Willimantic.

"This is a great place to work," Ricigliano said. "Instead of driving 45 minutes to Hartford, I can just walk down the road. It is truly an underestimated internship."

Ricigliano said he has

Special Neighbor



Ricigliano

worked on creating contact lists for all the businesses in town, as well as economic development outreach on social media.

Generous and Davidson have also worked together with the Connecticut Main Street Center, which is hosting an awards ceremony in Willimantic on June 3. The two are working on their social media campaign.

Generous is also a political science major. She is originally from Washington, D.C., although she grew up in Connecticut, mostly in Franklin.

"Most of our work is in



Davidson

social media and it's actually really hard to sit down and write the posts. It's definitely challenging, but really fun," Generous said.

Generous said, after graduation, she is planning to go back to Washington to possibly work for a policy think-tank. Then she wants to get a master's degree in Latin American studies or international relations.

Davidson is a history major. She is from New Milford.

"I've never been in the town setting," Davidson said. "The only experience I had is from watching (the TV show) 'Parks and Recreation.' so



Generous

it's interesting to see how different aspects of the town work."

After graduation, she plans to go to law school for entertainment law.

Ricigliano is taking the internship for course credit, while Generous and Davidson are taking it just for experience, although they are receiving a stipend from the Connecticut Main Street Center.

Windham Economic Development Director Jim Bellano said the young interns are reliable and driven.

"We have great resources at Eastern," he said. "We love the relationship."

More information about the Windham Economic Development Department is available online at windham-ct.com.

Follow Claire Galvin on Twitter - @CGalvinTC.

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Francesco Ricigliano