Summer Curriculum Development Grant 2011

Final Report for Gail Gelburt GELC 11

This summer development grant enabled me to work with a student research assistant to build an internship database, and a proposal of procedures for the department. After hundreds of hours of research we were able to identify over two hundred opportunities available for our students—120 of them in the state of Connecticut alone. The remainder of them are primarily in the surrounding states. However, there are also some that we found that are exciting opportunities with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC, Disney in Florida, or the Guggenheim Museum in Venice Italy. Many of the opportunities are with corporate design departments, magazines, and museums. Publishing outlets, Arts organizations, and advertising agencies are also real possibilities. The range of activities available go from art therapy, to graphic design, interior design, to museum registration and education. Some of the major corporations looking for design/art interns include Esquire, Harpers Bazaar, ESPN, and Elle magazine. Blue Sky Studios is another outstanding opportunity for our students in Connecticut. This company, owned by Fox Entertainment, is responsible for creating stories and images through CGI technology—they created films such as Ice Age. Armed with a database that includes descriptions and contact information, we now plan to get this database onto our department website so that all of our students have direct access to it all. We will next work with ITS to create a log in for it.

We were also in touch with Career Services and the major departments that sponsor internships—such as Communications and Psychology. We have obtained their procedures and hand outs and will now work with the faculty in our department to codify the Visual Arts Department’s procedures and guidelines. Career Services does not now have much to offer the art students in the way of lists of opportunities but can certainly help with interview techniques. For our students, the most important aspect, is to have a portfolio, which again must come through our department. I do hope that Career Services will develop their list of internship opportunities so that at some point they will add to what we already have. We will not be able to continue with our research in this formal manner, but will add to the data base as we hear about other opportunities. The basis for art internships has now been set.

In these times of economic hardships, it has been shown that internships help students get jobs. We hope that this work will enable our students to have the opportunities that they need to gain experience in their field, and that these opportunities will then help them secure employment.

Budget:

Student Assistant: Amber Pero $900
Supplies: $97.60
Faculty Stipend: $1,000 (submitted with this report)
Total: $1997.60

Respectfully Submitted,