

South Dakota Workforce Development Council

April 16, 2012 1:00 Central Time

Board of Regents Workforce Update

(Additional Information, not Included in Mailed Materials)

A Black Hills State University press release provides examples of **Accounting internships and job offers**.

- Students have had internships with CPA firms, businesses, local government, and State government.
- Internships often lead to jobs offers for the students.
- The press release provides examples of internships and positions.
- The University is promoting Accounting careers.

Black Hills State University Accounting web sites:

- Professional Accountancy
<http://www.bhsu.edu/Academics/ProgramsMajors/Business/ProfessionalAccountancy/tabid/4819/Default.aspx>
- Accounting
<http://www.bhsu.edu/Academics/ProgramsMajors/Business/Accounting/tabid/6075/Default.aspx>

BHSU press release, 2012 April 10:

<http://www.bhsu.edu/AboutBHSU/NewsEvents/tabid/3454/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/4300/BHSU-accounting-students-earn-internships-and-job-offers.aspx>

Accounting students at Black Hills State University are highly sought by regional accounting and financial businesses for internships and job openings.

According to Dr. Priscilla Romkema, dean of the College of Business and Natural Sciences, BHSU accounting students have completed more than 30 internships at prestigious firms and state agencies in the region. Romkema adds that the internships often lead to exceptional job offers for the students.

“Black Hills State University graduates are filling a critical workforce need in the business sector,” Romkema says. “With a degree in accounting, our students enter one of the most in-demand fields and earn excellent starting wages. Accountants ranked second in a government study of the number of job openings for graduates with bachelor degrees projected for the next decade. Our students consistently receive good feedback on their internship performance and the students rank the internship experience as very valuable as well.”

BHSU offers several degree options for students interested in earning an accounting degree. The bachelor’s degree in business administration with a specialization in accounting, is a four-year program. BHSU *also* offers a bachelor of science five-year degree (150 credit hours) in professional accountancy. This program is designed for students who plan to take Certified Public Accounting (CPA) exam.

Paul A. Gough, Director of Policy & Planning paulg@sdbor.edu (605) 773-3455
Board of Regents: <http://www.sdbor.edu>

Each year the accounting program at BHSU hosts several events to showcase the program. The South Dakota CPA Society Accounting Showcase is hosted by BHSU and is held every fall in both Spearfish and Rapid City. According to Laura Prosser, BHSU assistant professor of accounting, this event is an excellent chance for students and prospective accountants to gain firsthand knowledge about the accounting profession from practicing accounting professionals. Last fall more than 100 students attended the events.

In addition, the first annual BHSU Accounting Career Fair was held this fall in conjunction with the CPA Society Accounting Showcase. Six employers attended the separate events in Rapid City and Spearfish and nearly 100 students participated. Several BHSU students secured internships and/or jobs as a result of this fair. Prosser noted that both the employers and the students indicated the event was very helpful.

For more than a decade, BHSU students have volunteered their time to assist area residents with tax preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

Accounting students who have participated in accounting internships or are employed in the accounting profession in the region include:

- Liana Robinson, from Rapid City, was offered a full time auditing position with Casey Peterson following an internship at the firm. “They were impressed with her auditing abilities and her financial accounting knowledge specifically regarding goodwill impairment,” Romkema says. Robinson, who will graduate in May with an accounting degree, plans to take a few more classes to earn the 150 hours required to take the CPA exam.
- Seth Hipple, from Pierre, is employed by the State of South Dakota at the Bureau of Finance and Management as an accounting analyst. He is a part of a group that compiles the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and answers accounting questions from other state agencies. He previously completed internships with the S.D. Bureau of Finance and Mandalay Homes.
- Melvin Wetsit, from Box Elder, is currently interning with Casey Peterson.
- Elizabeth Leinweber, Rapid City, is currently interning with Ketel Thorstensen.
- Diana Fiegen, from Dell Rapids, and Kelsey Marnette, from Warner, are currently interning with the National Guard in Rapid City.
- Allysen Boetel, from Mission Hill, will graduate in May and is already working at a CPA firm in Pierre.
- Alissa Miles, from Huron, who graduated in May 2011, works for the state of South Dakota.
- Eric Lind, Class of '10 from Black Hawk, and Angela Drown, Class of '10 from New Underwood, are both now working with Casey-Peterson and Associates.
- April Bachman-Erickson, Class of '09 from Eagle Butte, completed an internship at First Western Agency, LLC and is now a budget specialist for the North Dakota Department of Commerce.
- Brandon Bentley, from Spearfish, completed an internship with Casey Peterson and Associates and the VITA program.
- Allysen Boetel, from Mission Hill, received a job offer from an accounting firm in Pierre, following an internship with Hills Hospitality Management, LLC.

Workforce Development Council – 2012 April 16
Board of Regents Workforce Update – Additional Information

- Shannon Eliason, from Belle Fourche, completed an internship with Ketel Thorstenson, LLP in Rapid City.
- Alex Hanson, from Aberdeen, completed an internship with Elkhorn Ridge Golf Club.
- Miranda Hansum, from Rapid City, completed an internship with Black Hills CPA Group.
- Henry "Bruce" Harmon, from Broadus, Mont., completed an internship with the VITA program.
- Cody Hartl, from Spearfish, completed an internship with Ketel Thorstenson, LLP in Rapid City.
- Amanda (Mandi) Johnson, from Rapid City, completed an internship with Warren Window and Supply, in Rapid City.
- Kelsey Marnettem, from Warner, completed an internship with the National Guard in Rapid City.
- Kristen Kenner, from Rapid City, completed an internship with Ketel Thorstenson, LLP in Rapid City.
- Jamie Richard Loftus, from Rapid City, completed an internship with Senator John Thune's office.
- Christine McClain, from Lead, completed an internship with Jackson Hewitt Tax/Wal-Mart.
- Jed Morgan, from Loveland, Colo., completed an internship with Pioneer Bank and Trust in Belle Fourche.
- Jennifer Neal, from Sturgis, completed an internship with the VITA program.
- Paul J. Painter, from Buffalo, completed an internship with J. Erickson and Company, CPA.
- Christine Peterson, from Rapid City, completed an internship with Moyle Petroleum (Common Cents Stores).
- Casey Pond, from Spearfish, completed an internship with H&R Block in Spearfish.
- Cassie Rausch, from Pierre, completed an internship with the VITA program.
- Ryan Schad, from Spearfish, completed an internship with Karen Simmons, CPA, in Sturgis.
- Amanda Schoon, from Spearfish, received a job offer from DeSmet and Biggs. She completed an internship with Prairie Harvest in Spearfish.
- Miranda Schumacher, from Hot Springs, completed an internship with the VA Medical Center.
- Misty Speirs, from Hill City, completed an internship with Telco Federal Credit Union in Rapid City.
- Jinyan "Julia" Tan, from Spearfish, received a job offer from Casey Peterson. She completed an internship with the VITA program.
- Jesse Vrooman, from Miller, completed an internship with Dwan Degeest, CPA, P.C., in Miller.
- Jess Weaver, from Spearfish, received a job offer from Ketel-Thorstenson, LLP in Rapid City, following an internship with the firm.
- Erica Uhler, from Murdo, will be completing an internship with the City of Pierre this summer.