

DAYTONINTERNS HELPING BUSINESSES

zack anderson/john jones, valerie beerbower, michelle ton
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The University of Dayton Political Science Department's internship coordinator likes it when students don't like their internships.

Coordinator John Jones says his own college internships with two attorneys showed him law wasn't for him:

JONES (:12) "Those internships in school really helped influence me professionally but only because I didn't like them. You know, had I liked them, I may have gone to law school, and who knows? Maybe I'd be a pretty upset attorney right now, I don't know."

Today, Jones says he is enjoying his job of teaching and working with students and businesses. He gets to do these things not only at U-D but also as president of DaytonINTERNS.

DaytonINTERNS is a firm that consults with area businesses on internships. One of Jones' business partners, Valerie Beerbower, says the firm does everything from auditing existing internship programs to helping businesses start new ones.

Jones says what DaytonINTERNS does is bridge the gap between academics and business:

JONES (:15) "What I really feel that we do in a very succinct way is that we provide effective communication and understanding between both those sides of that coin because we

can speak both languages. We can speak both business and academic."

Jones' U-D internship work is how he first got started with DaytonINTERNS in 2011. Jones says he knows how the politics and economics of the region affect what can be done about internships:

JONES (:16) "When new ideas show up in the region, there's a territorial-ness that's present where those various different power groups try to identify, 'Okay, you know, is this our idea? Is this somebody else's idea?'"

Jones isn't the only one using his experience to help the firm. DaytonINTERNS' Michelle Ton manages the firm's social media and website - a skill she first got during her own internships:

TON (:13) "I actually started some social media for the internships, the places that I worked for. And that helped me feel like I was valuable, and I helped the company further their brand and their awareness with the community."

Ton says she wouldn't even be in social media without her internships. At one point she wanted to go to med. school.

For Beerbower, it's her professional and volunteer connections that she has contributed to DaytonINTERNS. She says she began volunteering when she first moved to the area.

BEERBOWER (:15) "Some of the connections that I make personally and professionally have really benefitted from that early volunteer experience. So just because you think that there are some things that you feel are beyond your ability to change, doesn't mean you can't do anything. You can do something."

Now, Beerbower is a member of both Generation Dayton and JumpstART - an arts program for young adults. As far as professional organizations, she's involved with the Public Relations Society of America and the American Advertising Federation.

Beerbower originally moved to Dayton because a potential job that came out of an internship in Cincinnati didn't work out.

Beerbower might've not gotten a job from that internship, but Jones says he believes internships are indeed training for the working world.

JONES (:11) "Yeah, you may get paid for it, maybe you might not. But that initial experience that you have about what it is to be a working professional is going to influence you for the rest of your life."

Reporting for Cedars, this is Zack Anderson.

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