

Chamber Members Mentor High School Students

Several Chamber members took on the role of workplace mentor this past summer. Judging by their comments and those of the interns, the experience can be ranked in the win-win column.

Dan, a student intern who was mentored by Chamber Vice Chair Timothy Braceland of Edward Jones described his experience.

"I learned when to buy/sell stocks and bonds and how to work with others to achieve a common goal. This internship was a great match... I had an amazing mentor who has also taught me the importance of giving back to the community."

The feeling was mutual. Braceland described Dan as someone who "displayed a very professional approach to his work. He quickly grasped his responsibilities. His work ethic, attention to detail and communication with clients were exemplary. He was a welcome addition to our team."

The two participated in the Internship Connection Program which provides students with a supervised educational experience that bridges school and the workplace. Students are placed in work environments that reflect their interests in school such as engineering, architecture, advertising and communications. While in the program, they receive guidance about careers, drafting a resume, preparing for a workplace interview and complete journal entries of their reflections.

Mentors and their organizations benefit also. Dr. Carole Jabbawy, the Director of the Internship Connection, received her Doctorate in Education from Boston University. She is a former college professor involved in teacher training and program development and serves as a consultant to businesses who would like to establish or improve on-site internship programs.

Dr. Jabbawy, said that "through the program's unpaid summer internships, businesses gain a part-time worker as well as the satisfaction of becoming a guide and role model for a student."

Other Chamber members who participated in the program are: Jonathan Brickman and Catherine Cahners (Newton Magazine); Eric Burt (A.G. Edwards); Vicki Donlan (Women's Business); and Ann Marie Dorsey and Gregory Rush (Community Newspaper Company).

For more information about sponsoring an intern, contact Dr. Carole Jabbawy at The Internship Connection in Newton 617-796-9283, dracarjab@aol.com.



Kristen Wilczynski gives her intern, Penn his daily assignment in finance at A.G. Edwards.