



COOP & Internship Program Newsletter

INTERNSHIPS IN FOCUS:

Public Defender	2
Monterey County Weekly	2
Supervisor Jane Parker	2
COOP Program Internship	3
Tips and Tricks	3
Registration & Contact Info	4
Meet Our Program Director	4

Internships Work For Everyone!

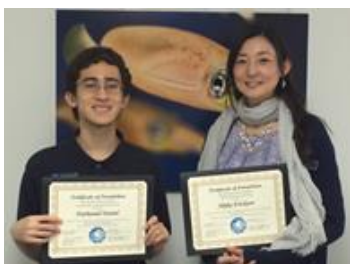
COOP is an acronym that stands for *Cooperative Work Experience Education*.

The COOP & Internship Program offered at Monterey Peninsula College provides opportunities for students to use *work experience for training, career planning, and personal development while they earn college credits*.



The COOP Family at the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce 2014 Business Expo

Back row: Jonathan Damon, Eugene Oyarzun, Janette Haxton. Center row: Kathleen Clark, Jade Costa, Anaya Southard Front Row: Alexandra Videmsky, MPC Board Member Margaret Coppernoll,



Interns at the Monterey Bay Aquarium: **Nathaniel Daniel**, a Marine Science & Technology Student and **Akiko Erickson**, a Business & Accounting Student. Our enthusiastic, talented students bring new ideas and fresh insights to the workplace.

Newsletter Inaugural Issue

Are you an MPC student looking for practical experience in your chosen field of study? Are you seeking an opportunity that will allow you to apply the knowledge you acquired in the classroom in a real-world setting? Are you embarking on a new career track and looking for an opportunity to gain new skills? If this is you, then an internship with the MPC COOP & Internship Program can help.

COOP's introductory newsletter focuses on the successes of student interns for the Spring 2015 semester. Each story is a testament of gaining valuable work experience, developing new career skills, building professional networks, and perhaps most profoundly cultivating one's character while combining professional and academic achievement.

Whether you're a student with no previous career experience or someone ready to take on a new professional path, the MPC COOP & Internship Program stands ready with opportunities. Internships work... for everyone!





Internship Spotlight : Public Defender’s Office



*Under the guidance of Public Defender, **Jim Egar**, and Intern Supervisor, **Maggie Ullerich** students work directly with clients going through the legal process of getting their criminal records expunged.*

Interested in public service or a career as a paralegal or an attorney? An internship in the Office of Monterey County’s Public Defender has provided work-based experience to a number of MPC students with a variety of academic and career goals.

This unique internship opportunity allows students to work directly with clients who are going through the

legal process of getting their criminal records expunged. Under the guidance of assistant public defender, Don Landis, and the intern supervisor, Maggie Ullerich, students help Monterey county citizens restart their lives. The process requires a number of steps be completed before each case is presented to a Monterey county superior judge for a ruling. MPC students have taken the lead in this very

important work. Interested in being considered for an internship at the Monterey County Office of the Public Defender, contact Kathleen Clark at kclark@mpc.edu.

Monterey County Weekly: Hannah Lonergan

Hannah Lonergan worked as an intern this spring at the Monterey County Weekly, where she wrote an article titled *Castrooodoo*. The assignment involved approaching a taboo topic and presenting it to the reading audience so that they would be comfortable conversing about it. The topic for the article was voodoo cleansing, and how it is something available within the local Monterey county community. Researching the topic and writing about her

experiences while gathering relevant information allowed Hannah to develop the skills necessary for successful editorial writing, and gave her a glimpse into the investigative journalism process. “*Castrooodoo* affected how deeply I dug for stories, no matter the hurdles. The story also gave me a greater confidence in my writing ability, as well as helped my team relationships by creating a level of respect for my writing.”

In addition to new skills, Hannah also developed self-confidence, especially as it pertained to approaching people for interviews. “I have more of an idea of how to get complex answers from interviewees, and I have found my conversations flow better with less nervous energy. The personal goal I had for COOP -- to become more comfortable and confident with interviews -- has been achieved.” At the end of her internship, Hannah was hired as a full time MC Weekly employee.

Supervisor Jane Parker Internship: Maury Vasquez

Submitted by Maury Vasquez



***Maury Vasquez** worked with MPC’s COOP program to find internships with the Restorative Justice Partners as well as with Monterey County Board Supervisor Jane Parker. Maury hopes to utilize these experiences to make a positive impact on the community.*

Monterey Peninsula College’s internship program has played a pivotal role throughout the course of my time with the college. There’s nothing like getting that first-hand experience in your area of interest, which will certainly set you apart, and MPC’s COOP Internship Program is the one and only way to go. Being a political science major, I have great aspirations to make a positive impact in my community.

That, coupled with the hard

work of Kathleen Clark, got me into my current internships with Monterey County Board Supervisor Jane Parker and the Restorative Justice Partners of Monterey County. Being a second-generation Mexican-American, and first-generation college student, I never thought I’d amount to much, and now here I am living my dream.

Someday I’ll look back and attribute all of my successes to the hard working people of the MPC COOP Work Experience program and all who make up

this great college. I don’t think I’d be who I am, or where I am, were it not for Monterey Peninsula College.

The only regret I have is not having become aware of this great program sooner. Pay Kathleen a visit. You’ll be glad you did. Internships work--for everyone!





COOP Program Internship: David Castro

David Castro was instrumental in producing COOP’s instructional videos on the registration process, and he produces and posts the employer and intern videos on COOP’s YouTube channel, MPC Internship Program. Moreover, David is a contributor to the development of the COOP website. He is a seasoned multimedia producer who developed his many skills

by way of internships throughout his academic career. Even today as a graduate student, David continues to build on his expertise through MPC’s Internship Program.

“I have enjoyed every internship experience... My passion for educational technology has increased in recent years and I have decided to continue my academic career by pursuing a

Master’s Degree in Learning Design and Technology. I have always enjoyed helping people, and educational technology allows me to produce media that positively influences the lives of others.”

David’s internship experiences are integral to his academic and professional journey, which serves as an example of what internships can do.



David Castro worked extensively with MPC’s Internship Program Director to help create a media friendly site for future interns.

Tips and Tricks: What Are Employers Looking For?

For employers hiring recent graduates, one of the biggest factors is experience, particularly internships and employment. While college major, GPA, and academic credit do play a part, they’re not number 1 on the list when an employer is looking through recent graduates applying for jobs. Career areas such as science/technology, services/retail, and media/communications put a special emphasis on previous experience and employment.

Interestingly enough, the most important factors after experience are not a student’s college major or GPA. According to a national study published in the Chronicle of Higher Education in 2012, many employers care more about

extracurricular activity, your time outside of school spent in clubs, athletics, and community service. Only a few areas such as health care organizations really emphasize the importance of college major and academic performance alongside employment experience and extracurricular activities.

When it comes to personal skills, though, employers sorely need candidates with written and oral communication skills, adaptability, multi-tasking, and a knack for making decisions and problem solving. Most employers rely on your college education to teach you basic communication skills and the ability to multi-task, but realistically, when it comes to adaptability, decision making, and problem solving, the weight is

heavily on the student. One of the best ways to take command of this and become the best candidate is to gain personal experience through the many internships, job openings, and community service opportunities that are available to you.

At Monterey Peninsula College, the COOP Program is perfect for this, working with all types of business sectors throughout the Monterey County, to find you an opportunity to learn and prepare for your future career. As former interns of the program can attest, the internships made a huge difference in their job search, giving them just the experience their future employers were seeking.

COOP News Bulletin

MPC Internship Program is partnering with the Monterey College of Law and the Office of the Monterey County Public Defender, providing internships for MPC students. Monterey College of Law Dean, Mitch Winick, will speak to MPC students about law school entrance requirements this fall.





Internships work... for everyone!

We're on the Web!
www.mpc.edu/coop



Monterey Peninsula College COOP & Internship Program Director

Kathleen Clark
(831) 646-4074
BMC 202F

Office Hours
Monday 1 to 4 pm
or by appointment.

Please Note: To arrange a time to meet, simply send an email to me at kclark@mpc.edu. If I don't have other commitments I will reply by email to confirm. Otherwise, I will suggest another time.

How to register for a COOP section

- Go to the MPC COOP website, www.mpc.edu/coop
- Complete the Online COOP Employer Information Form.
- Upon receipt, an Add Code and section number will be emailed to you.
- Enter the Course Number and Add Code to your WebReg Schedule of Classes to complete enrollment.

How the COOP class works

- A COOP Orientation video on the MPC Online COOP class site provides instruction with an essay about what you hope to accomplish.
- An in-person meeting with your COOP instructor provides guidance in developing objectives.
- Learning goes on in the workplace throughout the term.
- Reflective assignments are submitted via the MPC Online COOP class site.

Meet Our Program Director

Helping students secure meaningful internships is my passion. Bridging the gap between education and a successful career for MPC students is my daily focus. Thus, the student success stories contained within this newsletter give me great joy as MPC's COOP and Internship Program Director.

My personal work history includes experience in multiple career fields and industry sectors. I serve as the liaison between local employers and students in various academic areas of study from Administration of Justice to Women's Studies. COOP is an interdisciplinary program which provides academic credit to students for their

accomplishments in a number of diverse workplaces. Sometimes employers contact me looking for student interns; other times students come to me seeking opportunities to gain the experience that will give them the competitive edge in either entering a new career field or being selected by a baccalaureate or graduate program.

I will be starting my 8th year in this position this coming fall term. My community contacts have grown exponentially as a result of successful partnerships with Monterey county employers in government, private industry, and not-for-profit organizations.

I invite you to contact me to discuss in person how an

internship can help you advance your academic and career goals. It is never too early in your education to get work-based experience.

You can also learn more about the MPC COOP and Internship Program by viewing my website, www.mpc.edu/coop or attending the weekly COOP Orientation held on Mondays from noon to 1pm in BMC207.

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