

### Internship Travel Fund

Stetson University is moving boldly to make internship experiences available to all students. For many of our students, however, simply traveling to and from internship sites presents a real financial obstacle. Donor funding would provide our students much-needed support and access to internship experiences, allowing them to apply their learning in real-world situations, sharpen their skills, expand their professional network, and emerge with a competitive advantage upon graduation.

Student demand for these opportunities is increasing, and we must enhance our ability to meet it: Currently only 56% of our 2015 bachelor's degree recipients participated in an internship (*2015 Stetson Outcomes Survey*), while consistently over 70% of our incoming first-year students have indicated an interest in completing an internship (*National Survey for Student Engagement 2008, 2011, 2014*).

From Summer 2014 to Summer 2015, 68 students requested over \$111,000 of funding assistance in order to complete their internships. Because of limited funding, only 36 students received total internship funding of \$21,900. In order for financially challenged students to complete prestigious internships that are often far from home or campus, additional funding is needed.

Internships are invaluable. Research by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) shows that internships increase students' success in securing post-graduation employment; in fact, 51.7% of interns in the survey accepted full-time positions with their internship employers (*NACE 2015 Internship and Co-op Survey*). Stetson's own research shows that among our 2015 bachelor's degree recipients, 88.3% of those who interned indicated that the internship was helpful or very helpful in preparing them for the workplace and their career (*2015 Stetson Outcomes Survey*).

Internships, employer site visits, mock interviews, job shadowing and other partnerships with employers ultimately help students find employment—a priority goal at the university. Of our Class of 2014 graduates, 58% were employed and 26% were furthering their education 10 months after graduation. While this is on par with the national average, Stetson strives for higher rates for its students.

Deep and meaningful student learning takes place when students are engaged in educational experiences such as internships that bring real-world relevance to what they have learned. Through donor funding, more students are able to participate in life-changing experiences that accelerate their learning, enhance their skills and allow them to develop networks that increase their success in reaching their career and graduate school goals.



*Mark Marcus '14 was a Financial Analyst Intern with Siemens Energy in Orlando.*