

Michael D. True
Director, Internship Center
Messiah College

Mike has been interviewed by the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, U.S. News & World Report, Business Week, and Harrisburg Magazine regarding internships. Currently, he serves as Chair of the Internship/Co-op Special Interest Group of the National Society for Experiential Education and is a certified trainer with the Cooperative Education and Internship Association. As well, he manages an internet listserv, which he began in 1995, of over 580 internship professionals in the U.S., Canada, Great Britain and New Zealand.

He compiled a booklet entitled "Starting and Maintaining A Quality Internship Program," which is currently being used by hundreds of colleges, universities, employers and chambers of commerce across the United States and internationally. Mike and a colleague from the University of Southern California conducted a national survey of internship/co-op professionals in 2002 and 2004 and published the results in the Journal of the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

In June 2007, Mike was the keynote speaker for the annual conference of the Canadian Internship Association in Kingston, Ontario. He was invited to present at the National Career Conference in April 2007 in Baltimore on national trends and how to adapt them for career offices. At Kansas State University in March 2006, he delivered the keynote address at their first-ever "Internship Summit". He has also conducted workshops on creativity for the New Hampshire College and University Council, the New England Association for Cooperative Education and Field Experience and Bloomsburg University. In 2002, he was the recipient of the "Higher Education Leader of the Year" award by the National Society for Experiential Education (NSEE). In 2002-2003, he served as Vice-President of the Internship Program Network of the Cooperative Education and Internship Association.

He has been involved with the Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania since 1998 and served on the board of directors from 2002 to 2008. He chaired the Education and Workforce Development Committee from 2002-2004. During that time he envisioned and oversaw the development and April 2004 release of a CD and companion website called "TechQuest" - www.tccptechquest.org, which encourages high school students to consider a career in technology. Through these tools and in other ways, he has been active in promoting Pennsylvania's Stay...Invent the Future initiative.

Among other notable accomplishments, in June 2007, Mike was presented with the Donna Dentler Service Award by the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Employers. In October 1998 he was the first recipient of the "Exemplary Leader Award" given by NSEE. He also initiated, and played a major role in writing and producing the video "Connecting With Employers - Making The Most of a Job Fair" which is marketed by the Central Pennsylvania Employment Consortium. The video was selected by the National Association of Colleges and Employers as the winner of the 1999 Award of Excellence in the Audio-Visual Programs category. It is used by over 350 institutions nationwide.

For the last number of years the Messiah College Internship Center has been recognized by professional peers as offering one of the most comprehensive, well-run centers in the nation. Since 2001 over 360 colleges and universities have used materials of, and/or consulted with, the Internship Center staff to improve their own programs.

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