

Student breaks ground on a broadcasting future

How do you get a job without any experience? How do you get experience without a job?

In a time when there aren't enough jobs to go around that old adage is even more perplexing, but Jodi Bittker of Farmington Hills has found an answer.

The University of Michigan student is using internship programs to her advantage. She plans to have a well-rounded resume with plenty of experience by the time she graduates and is out looking for a job.

A political science major with a strong background in journalism studies, Bittker has her sights set on a career in television.

"I know this is a tough field to break into and I want to have every advantage I can," she said. "I want to try all aspects of the media field, writing, radio, research and get a taste of radio and television newsrooms."

Bittker already has one internship behind her. She spent last summer at WDIV, Detroit's Channel 4, working behind the scenes on "Detroit Exchange," a public affairs program that airs on Sunday mornings.

This semester you'll find her on the Republican News Bureau staff at the

House of Representatives in Lansing. She spends approximately 30 hours a week with the five-man press office staff, learning the ropes and trying her hand at writing press releases, interviewing state representatives for the "House Republican Newswire," which goes to state radio stations and taking pictures.

Next summer she'll try to land an internship position in the news department at a radio station.

While internships vary as far as hours required each week, Bittker approaches hers as if they were a regular full-time job.

"I want to learn to perform in the work world," she said. "School is a much slower pace. These opportunities have made me aware of the real work world."

"I love the pace of this kind of work, especially television. I love being busy. The fast pace is exciting."

Bittker will receive four hours of credit for her internship this summer and must keep in touch with her advisor during the two-month no-pay experience as well as write a research paper.

"I've probably learned more in these two internships than I would in four years of college," she said.



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