Internships Help Build the Career "Toolbox"

By Kathy Scholljegerdes, Former Director of Career Services

At Bethel, the Office of Career Services Web site offers internship suggestions, links, and postings that are continually updated for most majors. A career counselor certified to administer assessments is available to prepare Bethel students for internships. In addition, several internship fairs are offered throughout the year and other resources are available to students who visit the office. Just go to the **career services** web site.

Internships help students in a number of ways:

- **Career Exploration.** Career exploration involves learning about oneself and the world of work. Facing the multitude of possibilities that our diverse and ever-changing global economy presents can seem overwhelming. Internships offer the opportunity to explore careers, increase self-understanding, and find the best "fit."
- **Experience.** Employers tell us over and over that experience is the key to getting hired. Many employers will hire students from any major as long as they have good work experience.
- **Skills.** Working in the "real" world teaches practical skills such as relating to professionals, improved written and verbal skills, and the ability to apply academic knowledge to practical situations.
- **Awareness.** Students learn about a variety of jobs and career paths as they experience the world of work. They learn about their strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes, and the possibilities that exist beyond campus life.
- **Networking.** An internship increases the student's network of contacts. Often an internship will lead to a job, but if not, the network is the student's best tool for finding a job after graduation.