

INTERN WALL of FAME



Elaina Brownell

Major: Sports Management

Men's Basketball Team Intern

SUNY Fredonia

We at the Career Development Office recently had the joy of speaking with Elaina Brownell, a Dean's List student who interned for the Fredonia Men's Basketball team. Being a Sport Management major, she fit right in with the team and was able to get experience and develop valuable career related skills during her time as an intern.

During her internship, Elaina was able to learn more about college athletics and everything that goes into running a college basketball team. For example, she learned how to work with a budget and order the team's new gear and equipment they would need during the season. Elaina was also responsible for organizing the athlete's workout schedules so that they did not conflict with their class schedules during the pre-season. She also attended every practice and assisted Coach Seymour by running the clock and making sure practices were time efficient.

Brownell believes that her internship experience will assist her in reaching her career goals. Assisting the Men's Basketball team gave her experience working closely with players and a head coach. She feels that the internship provided a valuable experience that will lead to opportunities to work with the operations of collegiate teams in the future. Upon completion of the internship, she said working with Coach Seymour and the basketball team was an "excellent experience" and she would recommend the internship to other students. She praised Seymour and the team, characterizing them as colleagues that had taught her a lot.

Her experience even garnered attention from the Chautauqua Hurricanes, a semi-professional basketball team in Dunkirk, New York. At the end of her time with the Fredonia Men's Basketball team, the Hurricanes offered her an internship to work with them. This next opportunity will allow her to obtain experience in a slightly different field of sports management, working with a semi-professional basketball organization.

Elaina believes that students on the fence about interning should go for it, saying students should "participate with as many [internships] as you can." She feels that interning is a great way to learn more about your future career, while also providing fantastic opportunities to network and meet professionals, getting your foot in the door for future opportunities. Elaina also added that her advice for fellow students is to focus on academics and networking, which she believes are the keys to success.