

# win-win

## FOR CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

*The new Partnership for Jobs program will benefit DC students and community-based nonprofits*

*by Debbie Richard, '02, '04, Assistant Director of Marketing*

First in a series of initiatives to strengthen ties between the College, the community and the Defiance region, DC has created a new Partnership for Jobs program. Under the new program, the College is launching a student employment program that will fund up to 2,000 hours of community work in 2010 for qualifying Defiance College students.

“I am pleased and excited that the College is able to participate in our local community in this way,” said President Mark C. Gordon upon announcing the endeavor. “Our students need work experience, and the community and local businesses need

assistance providing jobs. This is a real win-win which can expand students’ learning while also helping to stimulate economic development and job growth in the region.”

Students who qualify for the program will work at community-based nonprofits, small businesses, and government agencies. Each participating organization agrees to pay 50 percent of the students’ wages, while DC funds the remainder.

Community-based nonprofits will be able to apply for student assistance with specific projects which offer educational benefits for the students as well as community benefits. Special preference will be given to those nonprofit projects which offer the prospect of attracting additional financial support for the community.

The program will be administered through the McMaster School for Advancing Humanity as part of its commitment to assisting economic development in the local community.

“This is an excellent opportunity for our students to engage in hands-on learning with a pre-professional training focus and get paid,” said Dr. Laurie Worrall, Dean of the McMaster School. “Partnership for Jobs nicely complements DC’s tradition of quality internships by helping our students gain the valuable experience that employers are looking for.”

An innovative aspect of the program is that it will also provide financial support for students to work in select local small businesses which have not traditionally hired DC students and which can demonstrate that the project will provide significant pre-management training and mentoring for the student.

“Many students are looking for part-time jobs and internships,” said Lisa Marsalek, Director of Career Development. “They are excited to see that we have these new opportunities available for them. Students are especially pleased that these opportunities are related to their majors and could be used for internship credit.”

The program has already placed students in some excellent pre-professional opportunities including a position with a local day care offering a student the chance to be exposed to the business side and another position that offers cross-training within majors by working with the creative and business sides of a local business. ♦



*DC junior Mike Szuma works with Lisa Becher at Beilharz Consulting, Defiance, through the Partnership for Jobs program.*