

SUPPORTING QUALITY EDUCATION

Q2 UPDATE FY2014



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INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

The FY14 City of Arlington's Business Plan has three internship programs under this Council Priority: Financial and Management Resources in partnership with UT-Arlington's School of Urban & Public Affairs; Parks and Recreation with high school and college students; Communications Internship Program with regional universities. This issue showcases various internships, including stories and photos by Karen Ballesteros, a UT-Arlington broadcast student interning in the Office of Communication. "Not only am I being exposed to real life situations and actually applying what I have been learning in school, but it has also been a great way to network." *(Cover photo by Karen Ballesteros.)*

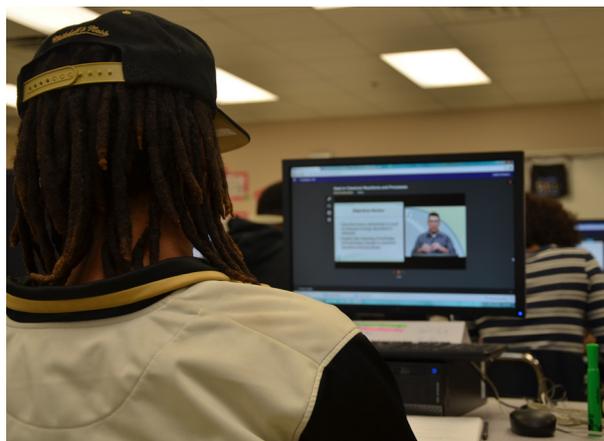
AISD DROPOUT PREVENTION PROGRAM By Karen Ballesteros

Joseline Estrada was ready to drop out of high school by the time she was a sophomore, she said. She had five credits out of the minimum 24 she needed to graduate.

AISD's Dropout Prevention Program changed her life.

"The atmosphere here feels like a second home," Estrada said. "They help you to the point that you don't want to give up."

The program began six years ago in a small portable lab in the Bob Duncan Center, said Wendy Carrington, director of the Dropout Prevention Center. It then moved to the Professional Development Center and, in February 2013, finally landed in a permanent



location on New York Avenue. **Josh Rossyion** attends the AISD Dropout Prevention program. *(continued on page 2) (Photo by Raegan Caldwell.)*

HIGHLIGHTS

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION *By Karen Ballesteros*



OOC Intern **Karen Ballesteros** has written and produced several mini-packages for the government channel and MyArlingtonTx.com, and she interviewed a Texas Rangers trainer to learn more about current techniques used to treat injured professional athletes. (Photo by Raegan Caldwell.)



OOC Intern **Charles Swanigon** is responsible for writing print stories and assisting with production of the Student-Athlete of the Month segment. (Photo by Karen Ballesteros.)



AISD – Dropout Prevention Program Director **Wendy Carrington** (pictured left) and **Stacie Adams**, lead instructor at the center. The building, formerly a gymnasium, was renovated into classrooms that house afterschool programs, a summer academy, tax tutoring, GED classes and an early childhood education program. Currently, the center serves about 130 enrolled students, and 21 graduates have walked across the stage since August 2013. Each diploma is granted from the “home school,” or the high school that originally referred the student to the center. Over the past year, these programs have touched the lives of more than 600 people, according to Carrington. (Photo by Karen Ballesteros.)

The City of Arlington's Office of Communication (OOC) has increased its efficiencies, thanks to a successful internship program featuring students from UT-Arlington. Launched in August 2013, the program was designed to help communication students develop some real world skills.

“In this internship, I’m discovering how to be a multimedia reporter telling stories with text, photography and video,” said public relations student Krystal-Rose Agu. “I would recommend this internship to students who are creative, proactive and who do not necessarily wait for assignments to be given to them but are ok with coming up with and carrying out their own assignments.”

“Their fresh perspective enables us to explore angles the City has yet to pursue, plus they have the opportunity to go out and produce their own pieces,” said Reginald Lewis, communications coordinator. “Arlington's news website, MyArlingtonTx.com, has increased its views because of intern production.”

Lewis went on to say he feels reinvigorated because the interns bring a fresh perspective, are highly prepared, and are very strong writers and photographers.

AISD DROPOUT PREVENTION PROGRAM *(continued from page 1)*

The newly renovated facility was made possible with a \$250,000 Community Development Block Grant from the City. Program participants complete the same curriculum as the other students in AISD, said Stacie Adams, the lead instructor at the center who has worked with at risk students for more than 25 years. “I enjoy working with this population because, on a daily basis, you can see them overcome struggle,” she said. “You can see your impact on their lives and their impact on their surroundings.”

In a room near the back, a UT-Arlington student helps in the Go Center, where students can plan their futures and discuss life after high school. For students like Estrada, this may be the first encouragement they receive to pursue a college education.

UPDATES

WATER UTILITIES INTERNSHIP SUCCESS STORY

Mathew Manson participated in the Arlington Water Utilities (AWU) Department's 2012-13 internship program while he was a student at AISD's Arlington High School. His plan following graduation was enlistment in the armed forces. That changed when AWU hired him as a full-time Utility Tech, a position he has held for about nine months.

He credits his internship with two life-changing junctures: skills that made his employment possible and a career path.

"My long-term goals are to make this my career and reaching my retirement with the City," Manson says. "Working with AWU has afforded me opportunities to expand my skills, continue training and gain the experience needed to obtain state regulatory license requirements."

A team player, Manson volunteered to be part of the first pipe-tapping team AWU has fielded in 15 years, saying, "I look forward to being a part of this organization for years to come."



Mathew Manson
Arlington Tap Team

April 16, 2014 – Utility Tech **Mathew Manson** is a former Water Utilities Department intern who now works in the department.



April 16, 2014 – AWU pipe-tapping team competing at the American Water Works Association's Annual Conference and Exposition in Dallas (pictured left to right): Coach **Adam Stark**, **Taw Woolford**, **Adam Waggoner** (in solid blue shirt) and **Mathew Manson**. Pipe tapping is a high-energy contest involving a race against time to drill into a cement-lined, ductile iron pipe and install a tap. Texas holds the largest regional pipe-tapping competition in the country. Winning teams from Section-Level Pipe Tapping Contests compete every year at the American Water Works Association's Annual Conference and Exposition.

PARKS AND RECREATION By Karen Ballesteros

The City of Arlington Parks and Recreation Department has a successful internship program for both AISD high school and college students. High school students assist at special events, research topics for articles, create spreadsheets and enter data, organize and index digital photos, and handle other related tasks. Opportunities for college students tend to be tailored to the intern's skills and experience.

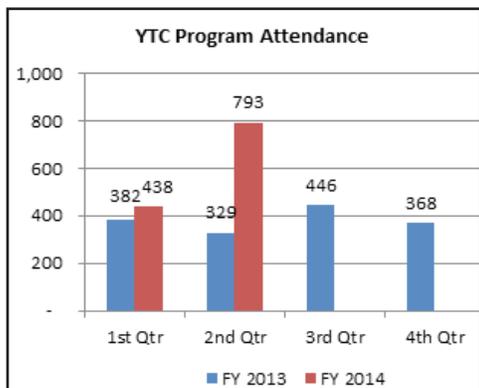
Jesus Silva, the current marketing intern who graduates from UT-Arlington in May, has produced content for the naturallyfun.org website, acted in a television commercial, recorded a voice over, translated flyers, sat-in on consultant presentations, and created an internship manual for the department.

"Throughout the duration I've been doing a lot of cool stuff," public relations and advertising Student Jesus Silva said. "I got to listen to a lot of consultants, and it gave me a lot of experience, especially with the Adobe software. It's been quite an experience. There are many things to do."



Parks and Recreation – PR and advertising student **Jesus Silva** discusses a project assignment with Marketing and Enterprise Development Manager **Ryan Hegreness**, who says, "Interns have exceeded our expectations almost across the board. Each one brings a different skill set, so we try to change the responsibilities based on their experience." Having high school and college interns creates more awareness among students of what the City of Arlington provides in terms of Parks and Recreation services, amenities and job opportunities. (Photo by Karen Ballesteros.)

NEXTSTEPS



TEEN ZONE

Inspired to Inspire. That's the name of China Wilson's winning video. The 18-year-old, who is homeschooled and an active member of the Teen Zone Book Club at the Northeast Branch Library, was selected as the winner of the 2014 Texas Summer Reading Program Teen Video Challenge as part of the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP).

More than 100 teens from 26 participating states entered, with one winner per state. Three of our teens entered videos. This is the first time Arlington participated in the competition.

China's video has a simple, but powerful message that seems to encompass the very essence of summer reading programs around the country: Everyone reads at their pace. And that's okay.

To view the winning video, as well as the other Arlington participants' videos: <http://www.arlingtonlibrary.org/teens> or <http://mysrc.org/>.

To view all of this year's winning videos: <http://www.csllpreads.org/programs/young-adult-program/teen-video-challenge/2014-teen-video-winners.html>.



VIDEO MESSAGE:

Everyone reads at their own pace. And that's okay.

Because it's never too late to read a good book, and it's never too soon to enjoy one either.

So grab a good book and a few more. Okay, a lot. Anything that interests you.

And join your local library's summer reading program.

Coming soon to a library near you.

STARRING:

London Wilson

Connie Wilson

Ivy Killen

Olivia Jones

China M. Wilson

DIRECTED BY:

China M. Wilson



Kick Off for the Teen Summer Reading Club is May 31 with a June 1 start. Open to students enrolled in grades 7-12, as of the 2013-14 school year.

For more information: <http://www.arlingtonlibrary.org/src/teens>