

John Williamson
Tonya Executive Summary

This summer I interned with the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. My position was in the research division of TN ECD. ECD works to better the economic standings throughout the state of Tennessee by way of developing stronger workforces and recruiting new companies which will in turn create new jobs and establish new capital throughout the state.

The role of the Research division of ECD is to assemble information regarding the current economic and social standing of all the regions of Tennessee. Research also compiles information relevant to tax structures and incentives and provides this information for companies which are interested in moving or opening business in Tennessee.

As an intern in the Research division, I was given assignments which included logging a database/directory of statewide and regional development agencies in the Southeast. This directory could be used as a reference for companies interested in settling in the Southeast. Further projects included compiling a record of all taxes and tax incentives for the states of Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. My largest economically centered project was an analysis of four film budgets which were produced in Tennessee. The analysis broke down the expenditures of the film and linked dollar amounts to various industries in Tennessee. The goal behind this analysis was to determine the direct economic effect film production had in Tennessee and the amount of income the films generated for Tennessee citizens.

A final project I was involved in was compiling demographic information on a county by county basis which provided statistics on age distributions, racial and ethnic distribution, and various health statistics. This information could be used to target specific counties which needed more attention in terms of development and could also help in pinpointing a location for new industries on a workforce basis.

This internship has helped me to become more proficient in my research methods and it has also helped me to develop skills in technology usage. I am very grateful to the Tonya Public Affairs Internship Fund for making this experience a possibility and a reality.