

Tonya Executive Summary

From June 1st to August 6th 2010, I had the privilege of interning at the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development in Nashville. I completed various business development projects in my ten weeks at the department, and I learned a great deal about the economy of Tennessee and the steps that are necessary to insure its continued success.

My first project dealt with writing a report on the relationship between a nation's economic development and its mortality level. My report discussed the negative correlation between the two variables, a relationship known as Preston's Curve. Next, I researched over one hundred companies that had plants in Tennessee for the purpose of discovering the brand name labels that these plants manufactured. I discovered famous brand names such as George Dickel Whiskey and Chattanooga's Moon Pie, which I generated into a spreadsheet that was used to advertise the famous businesses in Tennessee.

My most difficult project dealt with generating a report on the highest performing industries in Tennessee. I was given a raw labor data sheet for every county in Tennessee and my aim was to sort the data into a comprehensible spreadsheet. Next, I had to find the industries in Tennessee that had the highest average employment and, at the same time, a high average annual wage. These industries corresponded to the highest growth industries in Tennessee, the industries most capable of spurring the state's economy.

My final project dealt with generating an automotive manufacturing directory for Tennessee. I was given a spreadsheet containing over nine hundred automotive companies in Tennessee and my goal was to find the contact information for all of those companies. This project necessitated extensive research and hundreds of phone calls as I attempted to gather the necessary contact information. In the end, I was successful in obtaining the contact information for over ninety percent of the companies. This was an impressive feat, as I was told that I would only be able to find five percent.

Aside from my business development projects, my internship provided me with other learning experiences. As I was living alone, I learned how to live independently.

For the first time ever, I had to cook for myself, buy my own groceries, pay my own rent, and, in general, to fend for myself. In addition, my time in Nashville was not all work. My internship gave me the opportunity to explore the city of Nashville and its many attractions.

My ten weeks interning at the Department of Economic and Community Development was a great learning experience for me. Not only did I learn a lot about the economy of Tennessee, but I also learned how to furnish reports and how to work in a business setting. These experiences, I am sure, will help me enormously in my future.