GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS HIT THE GROUND CODING
University's Successful Internship Program With Area Tech Leader FedBid Opens Doors

Fairfax, Virginia, April 5, 2007-- George Mason University's Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering is partnering with local area firms to provide live business experiences for its students. The latest program success has come with the help of Vienna, Virginia-based FedBid, Inc. This year, six seniors from the Applied Information Technology department (AIT) joined the company's volunteer work program and built a technology application.

"The students worked to design and build a computer-assisted mechanism to track the status of our marketing efforts," said Susannah Griffiths, FedBid Director of Communications adding, "we were impressed with how quickly the students gained a full understanding of our market space and we're thrilled to have them on board."

The students, Casey Morgan Beaird, Alexis Aryan Outman, Krystal Moon and Michael Parsons are Northern Virginia natives, John Vo Mackinnon from Texas and Haidar Douglah from Sweden, are seniors in the Applied Information Technology department. Dr. Donald Gantz, AIT Chair, describes the goal of his department as preparing students to apply information technology to support business processes. He said, "FedBid's program gives our seniors an excellent opportunity to learn how IT functions in a real business environment. In this case, it's a rapidly expanding IT-based business. Students learn how team work and technology excellence can work together to deliver service and fulfill customer expectations." The students report that they find their education and coursework has truly prepared them for real business.

FedBid's willingness to open its doors to George Mason University students and the school's commitment to providing its students with practical job experience is a solid example of the Volgenau School's pledge to partnering with area businesses for the good of its students and the business community.

"These students have impressed us with their core technical skills and enthusiasm for the project. We look forward to continuing our program with George Mason and upon graduation, hope to hire as many of these students as we are able," said Griffiths. "We're already benefiting from their work."

Robert T. Quinn, faculty member with the Applied Information Technology department and coordinator for the program, feels that student work programs solve the age-old dilemma that many college seniors face: The need for experience in order to secure a great job and finding a great job that provides that experience. That sentiment is echoed by Lloyd Griffiths, Dean of the Volgenau School, who said, "The school's relationship with area businesses is unique for a

suburban-based university and is a prime example of how we are actively and successfully building partnerships between the academic and the business communities."

FedBid, Inc. provides online procurement services, including Reverse Auction and associated support services, through its buyer-driven online marketplace, www.FedBid.com. Today, more than 1,000 procurement professionals at GSA, the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, State, and at dozens of other public sector organizations and associated prime contractors use FedBid to procure hundreds of millions worth of commodities and simple services. For more information, visit www.FedBid.com or call (877) 9FEDBID.

George Mason University's Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering is one of the fastest growing academic centers for IT in the greater Washington, D.C. area. The school provides students with leading technology resources, renowned faculty, and a progressive program of studies and opportunities to prepare them for business and beyond. For more information on the Volgenau School visit them at http://ite.gmu.edu/.

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