

## Y interns work to alleviate global poverty

NewsNet Staff Writer - 29 Jul 1998

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BYU was one of three universities, chosen from over a hundred, to present their strategy to design and implement effective programs to alleviate global poverty.

Professor Gary Woller, of the Romney Institute of Public Management, and Professor Warner Woodworth, of the Masters Program in Organizational Behavior, returned last month from the Microcredit Summit conducted in New York.

This was a worldwide meeting for selected representatives from over a thousand institutions.

Their action plan includes educating and training students to assume positions of leadership in the microcredit movement and the international development community, generating student international internships and service opportunities, encouraging and assisting students and other members of relevant communities to establish microcredit organizations, carrying out and publishing research on microcredit, and consulting with existing microcredit organizations to help them educate the public about microcredit.

Woller, Woodworth and various students have been active in these plans since 1997's Microcredit Summit meeting and are still active today. Projects have already begun in the Philippines, Latin

America, Africa and Eastern Europe.

They organized the first Rocky Mountain Microcredit Conference in February 1998.

"Teams of students are spanning the globe as interns this summer trying to make a difference," said Dave Hanley, a BYU senior from Provo, Utah, "I know this is what I want to do with my life."

Hanley is spending his summer in Bangladesh, with two other fellow students, learning how village banking operates.

During this summer semester there are a total of 17 BYU students around the globe working on internships within this program.

Todd Manwaring, a masters of organizational behavior student, from Tacoma, Wash., is in El Salvador and Nicaragua. He and Woodworth have also worked with Manwaring's local community in Orem, where they raised \$2,500. This money will be used to start a new village bank.

This will help the people become more reliant, and develop a new sense of dignity and self-respect, Manwaring and Woodworth said.

Erik Lewis, a BYU first year Master of Business Administration student from Chile, is interning in Guatemala City. Some of his jobs include serving as a consultant to poor, self-employed families within the capitol city, and also conducting leadership programs.

"This is a lot more real-world laboring with the masses down in the trenches," Lewis said.

Brett Empey, a senior majoring in anthropology from Roy, Weber County, is volunteering in Ghana, Africa, one of the world's poorest countries. He is working with the Humanitarian Aid Relief Team to help reduce disease among sick villagers.

Woodworth is in Ireland working on the peace process.

"These are social entrepreneurs seeking to build a better world," Woodworth said of these 17 BYU interns around the world.

"Our goal is to double the number of these global (ex)change students next summer," Woodworth said.