

December 1, 2015

Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, Grow Minnesota!
Employer Statement: Intern Emily Jorgensen

To: Economic Development Association of Minnesota (EDAM)
EDAM Scholarship Committee

Thank you for selecting the Minnesota Chamber's Grow Minnesota! program as a recipient of your EDAM Intern Scholarship. We are grateful for the scholarship that is used to help us build the Grow Minnesota! program and provide an Intern with an incredible experience. As you know, Grow Minnesota! is the nation's only statewide private sector business retention and assistance program. We don't have very many role models and even after 13 years, our program is still evolving.

Emily's work over the last 6 months has contributed to the program in at least four respects.

- First, as businesses continue to express workforce recruitment challenges, her research on workforce development and her command of the written word contributed to our successful Bush Foundation workforce grant application. This grant will initially start with a pilot program in Winona. Emily's work was key in the grant application process.
- Second, an additional research project showcased Emily's initiative. Her work supplied us with valuable insights on Minnesota's economy. The information she gleaned helped us create a dashboard of Minnesota's economic factors – what the state is doing well and not so well, and where improvements could be made. The improvements noted could ultimately increase the likelihood that companies locate and grow in Minnesota. She was also responsible for a number of smaller research projects that provided additional value to our program.
- Third, her self- initiative to take on new tasks and expand her knowledge resulted in her becoming our resident "expert" on Wanted Analytics/Real Time Talent. This new online workforce tool was recently launched statewide and helps us to better respond to business inquiries related to talent recruitment and the availability of certain skilled workers. Emily was able to respond to business requests and use the tool to more effectively and efficiently assist Minnesota business growth.
- Fourth, One of the obstacles to the success of Grow Minnesota!(GM!) is getting business retention visits scheduled statewide. Emily was able to develop a system that was used by staff to successfully schedule over 200 business retention visits in 2015. This number is included in our total of 925 companies that were visited statewide in 2015 by the GM! partners. As a result of her work we were able to provide more timely and valuable aggregate reports to our GM! partners and to the communities where our partners are located. Her assistance helped several of our partners complete a record number of local visits. Her diligent work in 2015 resulted in visits with 150 more companies than in the previous year. The scheduling process she created will be her legacy to our program.

In addition to her regular responsibilities, Emily was provided with opportunities to attend outside economic development events, conferences, and she participated on GM! business retention visits.

Sincerely,

Kathi Schaff
Director Grow Minnesota! & Business Development
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce