

GGDI Interns

2015 – *Stephan Salceda*
Adam Sanchez

2014 – *Ashley Esselink*
Brittney Wichert

2013 – *Hannah Austin*
Brittney Wichert

2012 – *Katie Meloche*
Kasey Zehner

2011 – *Zachary Kerr*

2010 – *Samantha LaChance*

2009 – *Rob VanDorin*

2008 – *Jesse Ramirez*

2007 – *Caitlyn Helms (CMU)*

2006 – *Kristina Schwab*

2004-05 – *Chelsey Foster*

2002-03 – *Cynthia Fountain*

2001 – *Alicia Halligan*

2000 – *Ryan Jezdimir*

1999 – *John Chasnis*

1998 – *Peter Muccio*

1996-1997 – *Jonathan Fisher*

1994-1995 – *Randy Thelen*

1993 – *Christian Betz*

1991-92 – *Ben Barber*

1990 – *Scott Farwell*

1989 – *Rob Ward*

1988 – *Rob Cramer*

1986-87 – *Eric Gardey*

1985-86 – *David Gulley*

1984 – *Dianne McNamara*

1983 – *Mike Kane*
Gail Nichols
Dave Wright

Greater Gratiot Development, Inc. (GGDI) was incorporated in 1978 to coordinate economic development and related services on behalf of the area municipalities and Gratiot County. GGDI acts as a countywide clearinghouse for information and assistance in retention, expansion, and location of business in Gratiot County. Since GGDI's inception, Alma College has been a steadfast partner in economic development by providing faculty and staff leadership on GGDI's Board of Directors and preparing accomplished students to excel in GGDI's Internship Program.

For over thirty years, GGDI has provided 32 students the chance to learn and develop skills in a professional business environment. GGDI has also benefitted significantly from each intern's unique innovation, talent, and expertise. Ultimately, this valuable partnership has been a tremendous benefit to the entire Gratiot Community, and GGDI is positive that trend will continue in the future.

GGDI and Alma College continue to work together to encourage Gratiot-area organizations and businesses to consider establishing similar intern programs that are mutually beneficial for both parties.

GGDI offers two different internship positions (listed below). Both positions include tasks that are designed to give the interns a knowledge of business, marketing, and local government.

Business Administration Intern:

This intern's tasks generally require accumulating, compiling, and presenting information from a variety of local sources and statistical databases to complete the following annual reports:

- **Tax Track**
- **Economic Profile**
- **Employment Profile**
- **Misc. marketing materials**
- **Community involvement**

Digital Media & Marketing Intern:

This position was developed in recent years due to an increasing need to utilize digital media. The primary focus for this intern is video production, social media, and marketing with the following tasks:

- **Virtual tours** (videos promoting local communities, events, business climate, etc.)
- **Website management**
- **Social media portfolio development**
- **Community involvement**

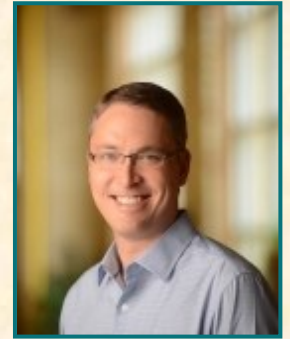
For examples of intern projects, visit www.gratiot.org

A Selection of Intern Success Stories

Randy Thelen (1994-95)

"It is hard to believe that it was 20 years ago that I began my internship with GGDI. The hands on experience has proven invaluable as my career in economic development has progressed. Beyond the tasks of tracking jobs, investment and increases to the tax rolls (I still have green ink on my hands from sorting through the Equalization Records at the County building!), what really stuck with me was the way in which Greater Gratiot provided strong community leadership. Depending on the project or issue, Greater Gratiot led by example, led by doing, led by educating, or led by bringing people together and listening for the right solution. For these reasons, Greater Gratiot has earned a reputation as the go-to place to get things done in mid-Michigan. I am proud to have played even a small role in the great history of a great organization."

Randy continued his career in the field of economic development at organizations including Monroe County Industrial Development Corp., Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and Lakeshore Advantage. He currently serves as the Greater Omaha Chamber's Senior VP of Economic Development.



Cynthia Muszynski (Fountain) (2002-03)

"My internship at Greater Gratiot Development was my first step into the professional world. Not only did I learn about the tremendous efforts which go into promoting a community to outside businesses, but also about the care and consideration that goes into promoting new startup businesses within the county. My responsibilities as an intern gave me a jump start into my legal profession by launching my public speaking and networking skills beyond anything I would have learned in a classroom."

After earning her J.D. degree from Ave Maria School of Law, Cynthia is now the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Alpena County.

Chelsey Foster (Intern: 2004-05, Project Manager: 2006-09)

"My internship at GGDI was a life-altering experience that helped launch my career and also made me fall in love with the Mid-Michigan area. I feel fortunate to remain involved in the efforts of GGDI."

Chelsey received the 2012 "Young Alumni Award" from Alma College. After continuing his service at GGDI as Project Manager, Chelsey became the City Manager of Ithaca for four years. He is currently working at Commercial Bank as Community President and Commercial Loan Officer.



Rob VanDorin (Intern: 2009, Project Manager: 2011-2012)

"It was Greater Gratiot Development that not only taught me about economic development, but also taught me the true need and importance for economic development in today's world. Learning from true leaders (Don & Carol) in the economic development field really gave me the chance to get ahead in my career."

After graduation, Rob served as Project Manager for GGDI before accepting a position with Mid-Michigan Community College in the field of workforce and economic development. Rob is currently an Associate Director of Career Services at Central Michigan University.

Katie Meloche (2012)

"My internship experience at GGDI helped me to utilize and gain confidence in the diverse business skill set I possess from my years of hard work at Alma College. I am so thankful to have found this experience in a small, non-profit setting where collaboration and hard work to grow Gratiot County overcome the small town label it is usually given."

After graduating from Alma, Katie earned a Master of Science in Information and Communication Sciences degree from Ball State University and is currently working as a Business & Systems Integration Consulting Analyst for Accenture Federal Services in the Washington, D.C. metro area.

