

July 17, 2006

Dr. John. R. Baker, Professor
Department of Political Science
Wittenberg University
P.O. Box 720
Springfield, Ohio 45501

Dear Dr. Baker,

While it has been nine years since I spent two months working for the City of Fernandina Beach, Florida, I wanted to express my gratitude for your leadership in developing the Local Government Management Internship Program. This unique course provides a fantastic snapshot of city government that truly integrates academic study and real-world experience for students.

Interning for the City Manager in Fernandina Beach, a small coastal city in northern Florida, gave me the opportunity to explore a field of economic development unknown to many in the Midwest: tourism! Our academic work provided the necessary background related to theory and practice of local government. Combined with the opportunity to experience and even participate in city council meetings, this program achieved the perfect balance for undergraduate students interested in local government and public administration.

Although my career has been focused at the federal level of government, I have been challenged with responsibility for several issues in which a federal regulation had a significant impact on a local government or organization. Whether I was working with the City Manager of Springfield, Ohio on brownfields redevelopment or with a local housing coalition interested in property near The Ohio State University campus, I have relied on my knowledge gained through the Fernandina Beach local government internship to navigate these complicated matters.

Thank you for your dedication to providing valuable experiences for students to learn the importance and value of local government. It was definitely an unforgettable experience, and I appreciate the opportunity to be associated with this terrific program.

Sincerely,



Stacy Rastauskas

Assistant Vice President, Federal Relations
The Ohio State University