

**MURRAY COUNTY**

# INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

2024



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# THE INTERNS

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*Murray County Medical Center*

**Taylor Post**

*Murray County Medical Center*

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**Andrea Barrios Villalta**

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**Marcus Feit**

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# HISTORY OF PROGRAM

Several years ago, Murray County Commissioner Dave Thiner attended a meeting regarding an Internship Program that had been started in a neighboring county. Liking the idea of bringing a similar program to his own county, Thiner brought the idea to the County Administrator.

At the time, funding for the program was not possible, but when Murray County received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, Thiner again brought up the program, noting that Nobles County used the ARPA funding mechanism for interns.

The Murray County ARPA Committee and then the County Commissioners dedicated \$115,000 toward an Internship Program, partnering with the Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council. The funds will be used for 15 internship positions over a 3-year period.

SWMNPIC worked with the Murray County Economic Development Authority to get students and businesses matched and were able to place 7 college students in Murray County jobs in the first year of the program. There were no geological restraints to where the students could come from – only that the businesses where they were placed had to be located in Murray County.

Murray County is pleased with the results of the first year of the program and looking forward to more students participating in 2025.

# MEET THE COMMISSIONERS

**Molly Malone**  
District 1

**Dennis  
Welgraven**  
District 3

**Lori Gunnink**  
District 2

**Jackie Meier**  
District 4

**Dave Thiner**  
District 5



*Acres Of Opportunity*

**MURRAY**  
COUNTY

EST. 1857

M I N N E S O T A



# TAYLOR POST

**Murray County Medical Center**  
*Administrative Intern*

**Winona State University**  
*Healthcare Leadership and  
Administration*



## Why did you apply for this internship experience?

I aimed to acquire experience in healthcare administration and effectively apply my educational knowledge to real life situations.

## In what way(s) has this experience impacted you?

Through this experience, I have gained valuable insights into the inner workings of a healthcare facility and the importance of teamwork in maintaining an efficient healthcare system. This opportunity has highlighted the collaborative efforts of individuals in providing exceptional patient-centered care.

## Note for the commissioners

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to grow in my career so I can reach my goals!



# BROOKE NEILSON

**Murray County Medical Center**  
*Administrative Intern*

**South Dakota State University**  
*Consumer Affairs*



## What is your favorite part of your internship?

My favorite part of my internship is being able to experience so many new and exciting aspects of the hospital and gain valuable real-world experience! We have had the opportunity to shadow many different areas of the hospital which has been a very exciting experience! Also, everyone at Murray County Medical Center has been so kind and welcoming to us interns, which greatly helps when you're a new face to the facility.

## Why did you apply for this internship experience?

I applied for this internship opportunity because I knew I wanted to stay local to my hometown area as well as have the opportunity to learn and experience the business side of a healthcare facility.



## Note for the commissioners

I would like to thank all the Murray County Commissioners for this wonderful opportunity, it has been a pleasure being able to intern at Murray County Medical Center and learn so many new and exciting things!





# ANDREA BARRIOS

**Southwest Health and Human Services**  
*Child Protection Social Work Intern*

**Bemidji State University**  
*Social Work*



## **What is your favorite part of your internship?**

My favorite part of my internship experience as a Social Work Intern in the child protection unit at Southwest Health and Human Services is learning from passionate Social Workers how to effectively building rapport and advocating for diverse cliental.

## **Why did you apply for this internship experience?**

I applied for this internship because I am passionate about child protection and dedicated to making a positive impact on the lives of vulnerable children and their families. I wanted to gain hands-on experience, learn from a multi-agency team and build a strong foundation in social work that would enable me to effectively advocate for and empower diverse communities.

## **What is the most valuable thing you have learned so far?**

The most valuable thing I have learned so far as a social worker inter in child protection at SWHHS is the importance of building trust and rapport with clients. Establishing a genuine connection is crucial for effective advocacy and support. This experience has taught me that empathy, active listening, and cultural sensitivity are essential in empowering vulnerable children and families, ensuring they feel heard , understood, and supported.

## **Note for the commissioners**

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Murray County Commissioners for sponsoring this incredible opportunity. Your support has been instrumental in providing me with invaluable hands-on experience and professional growth in the field of child protection. This internship has reinforced my passion for social work and my commitment to serving the Southwest Minnesota community. Thank you for investing in the future and for fostering an environment where college students can build lasting professional relationships and make a positive impact in their own and surrounding communities.



# ELIESE MEYER

## **Murray County Medical Center**

*Diagnostic Medical  
Sonographer Intern*

## **Southeast Technical College**

*Diagnostic Medical  
Sonography*



## **What is the most valuable thing you have learned so far?**

Throughout my time at my internship, I have learned additional knowledge and skills that are more than just classroom knowledge from those working in the field. I have learned to ask more questions and not be afraid to challenge myself while working.

## **Note for the commissioners**

I want to thank the commissioners for the opportunity to experience and grow my passion for what I want to pursue as my career.

# MARCUS FEIT

**Murray County Sheriff's  
Office**

**Minnesota West**  
*Law Enforcement*



## **What is your favorite part of your internship?**

Learning skills from the deputies and meeting new people.

## **Why did you apply for this internship experience?**

It's a great learning experience.

## **What is the most valuable thing you have learned so far?**

Everything that is going on in a sheriff's office.

## **In what way(s) has this experience impacted you?**

It has taught me a lot!



# HOST SITES

*Thank you!*

**Murray County Medical Center**

**Southwest Health and Human Services**

**Murray County Sheriff's Office**

**Investors Choice Financial Services**

**S & S Electric**



# AGENDA

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- ◇ Welcome from the PIC
- ◇ Welcome from Commissioners
- ◇ Lunch
- ◇ Student Reflections
- ◇ Employer Reflections
- ◇ Thank you!

*brought to you by:*

