

Murray County

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

2026



*Building the future
workforce in Murray
County through real-
world experiences*



SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA
PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

HISTORY OF PROGRAM

The Murray County Internship Program began with an idea to better connect students with local employers. Commissioner Dave Thiner first learned about a successful internship initiative in a neighboring county and saw the potential for a similar program in Murray County.

Although funding was not initially available, the conversation resurfaced when American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds became accessible. Thiner noted that other counties, including Nobles County, had successfully used ARPA funding to support internship opportunities and suggested Murray County explore a similar approach.

The Murray County ARPA Committee and County Commissioners approved \$115,000 to support up to 15 internship positions over a three-year period. Murray County partnered with the Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council (PIC) to implement the program and connect college students with local businesses and organizations.

The program officially launched in 2024, placing seven college students in internships with Murray County employers. Students could come from any geographic location, as long as their internship site was located within Murray County.

The program continued to grow in its second year, with eight students participating in 2025. Now in its third and final year of ARPA-funded programming, the Murray County Internship Program continued to provide meaningful, hands-on career experiences for local students in 2026.

Over the three years of the program, Murray County has invested in creating opportunities for students to explore careers, build professional skills, and gain real-world experience while helping local employers connect with emerging talent. What began as an idea inspired by a neighboring county has grown into a meaningful investment in both the future workforce and the Murray County community.



MURRAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Loy Woelber
District 1

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District 4

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District 2

Roger Zins
District 5

Dennis Welgraven
District 3



THE INTERNS

Kylee

*Murray County Medical
Center*

Katelyn

*Investors Choice Financial
Services*

Carter

*Murray County Medical
Center*



MURRAY COUNTY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



KYLEE

Host Site: *Murray County Medical Center*

Location: *Slayton, Minnesota*

Internship Area: *Various Nursing Positions*

School: *Dordt University*

Field of Study: *Nursing*



This summer, Kylee Brands gained hands-on experience while exploring a variety of nursing roles at Murray County Medical Center. Working alongside charge nurses, clinic nurses, the wound nurse, and outreach nurses, she had the opportunity to see firsthand the different areas and skills involved in a nursing career.

Kylee, who is studying nursing at Dordt University, said the internship has been especially helpful in giving her exposure to different areas of nursing and opportunities to gain hands-on experience with various skills.

After graduation, Kylee plans to begin her nursing career in Sioux Falls at Avera, where she will continue building her experience as a nurse.

Kylee's eagerness to learn and ability to quickly pick up new skills made a positive impression on the Murray County Medical Center team. Her supervisor, Courtney Bonnstetter, shared:

"Kylee has been awesome to work with. She has been eager to learn, catches on quickly, and will make a great nurse!"

MURRAY COUNTY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



KATELYN

Host Site: *Investors Choice Financial Services*

Location: *Slayton & Marshall, MN*

School: *Lake Area Technical College - Watertown, South Dakota*

Field of Study: *Consumer & Agri Financial Services*

This summer, Katelyn gained valuable real-world experience in the financial services industry through her internship with Investors Choice Financial Services.

Working under the guidance of Carla Goedtke, Katelyn had the opportunity to see how the skills she is developing at Lake Area Technical College can be applied in a professional setting. Her hands-on experience deepened her understanding of the financial industry and enabled her to explore potential career paths.

Katelyn is still determining which career path is the best fit for her, but her internship has helped her better understand her interests and the opportunities available in financial services.

One area that particularly sparked Katelyn's interest during her internship was investing. She would like to continue learning more about investing and explore where that interest could take her in the future.

The experience has given Katelyn valuable knowledge and professional experience that she can use as she continues her education and makes decisions about her future career.



THE LUNCHEON



On August 4, 2026, interns, host site representatives, Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council staff, and Murray County Commissioners gathered to celebrate the conclusion of another successful Murray County Summer Internship Program.

The luncheon provided a meaningful opportunity to reflect on a summer of growth, hands-on learning, connection, and career exploration. This summer, three interns gained valuable experience at two local host sites: Murray County Medical Center and Investors Choice Financial Services Inc.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the celebration and helped make this summer's program a success. We wish our interns the very best as they return to their universities for the upcoming academic year!