

Success for Student Career Experience Program Intern

by Ms. Ashley Wuytens, Public Affairs Intern, DCMA Public Affairs

Nearly three years after reporting to work for the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) as part of the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP), Mr. Patrick Bui is now a full-time information technology (IT) specialist at the DCMA Carson, Calif., office.

Mr. Bui began working for DCMA in April 2004 as an office clerk for DCMA West Aircraft Operations (AO). "My daily job was

preparing and maintaining weekly reports, as well as [aircraft flight risk/aviation maintenance manager/aviation safety officer] coursework," said Mr. Bui. "I also designed, built and maintained the DCMA West AO Web pages." In May 2006 he graduated from California State University, Long Beach with a bachelor's degree in computer science.

The SCEP program gives students practical on-the-job experience in their respective fields of study and provides federal agencies the opportunity to take an active role in developing their future

workforces. Additionally, it allows students who complete their academic and work requirements to become eligible for permanent employment



within the agencies for which they have been working. "I think SCEP is great because it gives students who really need work experience for their future jobs the opportunities to work, learn and gain that experience," said Mr. Bui.

A SCEP participant can be noncompetitively promoted or converted to a career or career-conditional employee within 120 days of completing an educational degree. After obtaining a bachelor's degree, students may enroll in the DCMA Keystone Intern Program, with entry at the GS-7 level.

"I am very lucky to have gotten a job with DCMA," said Mr. Bui. "I've been learning about new technologies within the IT field, which is exactly what I am interested in. I enjoy

SCEP gives students practical on-the-job experience in their respective fields of study and provides federal agencies the opportunity to take an active role in developing their future workforces.

(Above) Mr. Patrick Bui, IT, at his desk at the DCMA Carson, Calif., office.

“I think SCEP is great because it gives students who really need work experience for their future jobs the opportunities to work, learn and gain that experience.”

working with all the people in DCMA because they are very helpful and knowledgeable.”

“I am very lucky to have gotten a job with DCMA. I’ve been learning about new technologies within the IT field, which is exactly what I am interested in.”

The federal government has created programs like this under the Federal Student Employment Program to attract and recruit a talented and diverse group of students with skills that will be critical to the future workforce needs.



Student Career Experience Program Features:

- Open to students in high school, college, graduate or professional schools, including technical and vocational schools
- Provides an opportunity to gain work experience directly related to an academic field of study
- Allows for a flexible work schedule on a part-time or full-time basis
- Allows students to earn leave credits for illness and vacation
- Includes health and life insurance options
- Students are eligible for non-competitive conversion to a career-conditional appointment and will be considered for permanent employment with the Agency in the field/related field of work in which training was received. Permanent appointments will be made at the highest level for which a student trainee qualifies, in accordance with the DCMA qualifications standards for schedule B student trainee positions.

Eligibility Requirements

Students must be:

- Enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a degree student (diploma, certificate) at an accredited institution
- Above minimum age requirements for federal, state or local laws and standards
- Taking at least half-time academic or vocational or technical course load in an accredited high school, technical or vocational school, two-year or four-year college or university, graduate or professional school
- A U.S. citizen, naturalized citizen or a foreign national eligible to work under U.S. immigration laws

Source: *DCMA Student Career Experience Program Co-op Agreement* brochure

(Above) Mr. Bui on the day of his graduation from California State University, Long Beach in May 2006.