

# Municipal Management Internship Endowment



Please consider honoring Don Thornton, a 30-year veteran with the city of Union City, by giving a gift to the Municipal Management Internship Endowment. Your gift will help build a legacy to Mr. Thornton's dedication to public service and invest in the future of local government in progressive Tennessee cities.

The Municipal Management Internship Endowment supports the education of public administration students interested in a career in municipal management in Tennessee. Earnings from your gift to the endowment will be used to fund a summer internship in participating Tennessee cities for public administration students at the University of Tennessee. The Municipal Technical Advisory Service, an agency of the UT Institute for Public Service, will administer the internship. Mr. Thornton proudly supports this program.

I/We wish to honor Don Thornton and support the Municipal Management Internship Endowment with a tax deductible gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Enclosed is my check made payable to The University of Tennessee.

Enclosed is my cash gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please charge my gift to my credit card.

Visa  MasterCard  Discover

Credit Card No: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We wish to make a pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, payable over \_\_\_\_\_ years.

I/We plan to pay this commitment

Annually  Semi-Annually  Quarterly

The first payment will be made \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

Enclosed is my first payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this completed form and donation to:

**The University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service**

Attn: Municipal Management Internship Endowment

105 Student Services Building

Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0213

Phone: (865) 974-6621 Fax: (865) 974-1528

THE UNIVERSITY of  
**TENNESSEE** 

MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL  
ADVISORY SERVICE

[WWW.MTAS.TENNESSEE.EDU](http://WWW.MTAS.TENNESSEE.EDU)

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The purpose of the Municipal Management Endowment is to honor retiring city managers and to partially or fully fund summer internships for cities, utilizing the earnings the endowment will accrue. The summer internship is a program facilitated by the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (UT MTAS).

## FAQs

### What is the summer internship?

Each year, MTAS coordinates with a variety of cities to provide summer internship opportunities to students in Masters of Public Administration programs. Students apply and are interviewed by a panel of two professors, a retired city manager, a MTAS staffer and a former intern. Selected students work full time under the guidance and direction of the city manager. The internship typically lasts from mid-May until the first week of August. Currently, participating cities absorb the cost of the interns and their travel to conferences and training seminars.

### What is the benefit of a summer internship for a student?

Students at UT Knoxville can receive up to six graduate credit hours for participation in the summer program when they work for a city full time. Part-time internships are eligible for up to three hours of credit.

In addition, the students have an opportunity to witness the theories they have been studying put into practice and can apply what they have learned in a guided environment. Graduate students are able to participate in meetings that department heads may not even be invited to; experience firsthand knowledge of what a city manager's daily routine is like; and build their resumes with substantial and meaningful work on projects. They learn things that a classroom environment could never teach them such as how to manage an economic development deal or how to read between the lines of a proposal.

### What is the benefit of a summer internship for a city?

With the onset of the retirement of baby boomers, succession planning is becoming more critical. For cities to continue their successes, they need professional and experienced managers at the helm to replace the retirees with years of institutional knowledge and skills. The summer intern program builds the pool of qualified managers for future hiring.

Furthermore, the city benefits from having a keen, eager, and enthusiastic worker who can dedicate his or her time to one project without interruptions, or who has the ability to easily move from one task to another without previous obligations interfering. In one day, an intern can accomplish what might take a manager a week to do because of meeting commitments, phone interruptions and previously scheduled work.

"We have had summer interns for the last four years and all have been exceptional individuals. All four were different in their own way but terrific students and it's very good to see people interested in this profession again. All three of the ones before this year did very significant research on projects that staff implemented after they returned to school. "

Jim Crumley, Retired City Manager

"The internship is a fabulous opportunity for the students to see how what they are learning in the classroom is brought to life in the field of municipal management. As part of the larger service learning community, the work of the graduate students helps to advance the public service mission of the university. "

David Folz, Professor  
Political Science, UT Knoxville

"I definitely think the internship lays the foundation for a career in city management. It helped me start to form relationships with people in the field. It was the first foot in the door that I needed, and I learned a lot from the summer. Certainly it is the real world experience and intangible benefit of putting the classroom lessons into everyday life that I gained. You can't get a job without experience and can't get experience without a job so this was an essential middle step in the process. That summer gave me the jump start I needed to obtain my current position."

Tracy Baker, 2008 Summer Intern  
and 2009-2010 MTAS Post Graduate Intern