

## Job–Share Experience Plan Promoting Community Partnerships

Michelle McCoy  
Kent State University—Stark

### Community Partnerships: The Job–Share Experience KSU—Stark

---

With new technology rapidly embraced by most business communities and colleges, professional programs within the academy are challenged to ensure that their students “hit the ground running” upon graduation. The School of Journalism and Mass Communication is faced with this evolution since the blurring of new media allows for more job opportunities in the digital age. While programs acknowledge this technical invasion, the reality of students having immediate access to equipment and to instructors who teach new media applications is grim because of budget constraints and other ancillary issues. Kent State University—Stark will address this issue with its new Job–Share Experience plan (JSE), an offshoot of the Journalism and Mass Communication program.

Kent—Stark will implement its new journalism program next fall. The plan is structured so students can take enough media courses within a two–year period so they can successfully declare a major and complete their degree at the parent campus. This program’s intent is not to provide an associate’s degree but to offer students the benefit of proximity, quality advising, and a solid skills foundation to adequately prepare them for a smooth transition to the parent campus.

Clearly, in order to enhance the learning experience and accommodate students with the latest technologies in the profession, the school reached out and partnered with the community—and the community responded. Media businesses are always in need of extra help. For example, Canton City Schools has a large department in public relations. Their practitioners need assistance with press releases and event planning. Students within most sequences of the School of Journalism will benefit from this exchange of support. The mission is for the

coordinator to select two students from each sequence to work five to ten hours a week with local media businesses such as the Canton City Schools or *The Repository* newspaper. The selection of candidates will be based on accountability and excellence in academics. There will be no stipends or credit granted, but the students will gain on-the-job skills with the latest technologies before they go to the parent campus, and they will receive an extensive written evaluation that may assist them with securing an internship in their senior year. So this cooperative effort is not an internship.

## Professional Skills

---

The JSE program allows freshmen and sophomores to observe and gain more professional skills when they graduate. Although they do not have the practical skills like their senior colleagues, they can offer assistance in others ways and learn by being immersed in the professional environment. This approach should satisfy the need for partnerships at multiple levels. Below is an indication of the program and how Kent—Stark approaches it.

## The Plan And The Agreement

---

### Job Share Experience Plan Agreement An Extension Of The Stark Pre-JMC Program

Kent Stark welcomes you to the JSU plan. As a participant, your organization will be helping two of the Journalism and Mass Communication School's best and brightest students become exposed to the profession. The plan allows for you to have these students work with you each semester on any project where you believe you need extra help.

The JSE plan is *not* an internship, and no stipend is expected for the students. However, the enclosed evaluation is for your review upon the conclusion of the academic semester. We encourage your constructive criticism so the students learn from their experience.

Here's how the plan works:

1. Two students will be selected from each sequence by the JMC

coordinator (Michelle McCoy) every semester. The criteria for selection will be dependability, attitude, grade point average, enthusiasm for the profession, and a willingness to commit five–ten hours per week to your organization.

2. Once the two students have been recommended, I encourage you to set an appointment to interview these prospects. You are *not* obligated to hire them if you believe the relationship would not be suitable.

3. If you elect to hire both students, I suggest that you determine the students' work schedules, along with establishing clear job expectations in order to promote good performance.

Names

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Term Appointment Schedule

Starting Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your interest. Your participation will provide invaluable work experience for the students involved in the Stark Pre-JMC program as well as foster good community partnerships.

Sincerely,

Michelle McCoy, Assistant Professor

JMC Coordinator

Kent State—Stark

Note: You have the right to terminate these positions if you feel that job performance is unsatisfactory. Please notify me in the event that there are concerns. Also, I have attached a copy of this notice for your records. Please initial the additional copy and return it to me at your convenience. Thanks.

### Agreement

This document verifies that Kent State—Stark, the work site, and the student have discussed and agreed to the following expectations for this opportunity:

1. There will be no financial remuneration or course credit associated with this experience. Placement and work is voluntary.
2. Students are typically placed for one semester.
3. Students are expected to be present five hours per week as negotiated by the site mentor.
4. Students' schedules should be determined between them and the site mentor.
5. The faculty coordinator will be available to visit the site for questions or if problems arise.
6. The site must designate a mentor for the student.
7. The mentor needs to provide adequate supervision and appropriate tasks for the students as necessary.
8. The mentor will complete the letter of evaluation for the students.
9. The mentor will report to the faculty coordinator if there are problems that develop with attendance, attitude, etc.
10. The faculty coordinator will provide the student with any relevant learning materials that may assist in his or her experience.
11. The student will be responsible for letting the site mentor know of any changes in scheduled work times.

**\*I understand this agreement.**

X

---

Faculty Coordinator

Date

X

---

Site Mentor

Date

X

---

Student Evaluation JSE Plan

Date

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date \_\_\_\_\_

End Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please comment on the following performance items:

1. Dependability
2. Attitude
3. Skills (if applicable)
4. Positive aspects of overall performance
5. Areas where improvement is needed
6. Additional Comments

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Company

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Biography

---

Michelle McCoy is an assistant professor in journalism and mass communications at Kent State University—Stark. She teaches performance for television, broadcast voice, and many other media courses. An AFTRA member, she holds a long list of national and regional free-lance credits in voice-over and on-camera work. McCoy is the president of the American Association of University Women, KSU, and the State Convention Chair for AAUW/Ohio. She may be reached by e-mail at [mmccoy@stark.kent.edu](mailto:mmccoy@stark.kent.edu).