

Serving Your Country. . . as a Student Student Educational Employment Program a Success at DDC

By Ygraine Gula, Special to the DDC

Investing in the future, the Defense Distribution Center (DDC) is an active participant in the federal Student Education Employment Program. The program allows DDC (and most federal agencies) to hire students who are in college, or headed for college, and give them the experience of federal service.

Ygraine Gula, one such student-hire, loves challenges so much that in addition to her job in the DDC Logistics Operations Environmental Office, she volunteered to talk to all the other Summer Hires and wrote this article.

Erin Anderson, DDC Logistics Operations, started working for DDC in the summer of 2001. A Mass Communications major at York College, Anderson found the student program through her parents and thought it would be a great opportunity. Anderson accepted the job for a couple of reasons. Not only would she be making more money but she also knew she could carpool with one of her parents.

"I wasn't sure what to expect [before I started] because I wasn't told anything about the job, and no one knew if I was even going to have a desk," Anderson said of her first days in government service. Now, she says "I love it. It's a great working environment and I know that if I need help there is always someone willing to help me out." Would Anderson consider working for the DDC full-time? "A Career? Yes I would!"

Anderson graduates in two years—maybe we'll see you here full-time then?!

Something you didn't know about Anderson: "I love to sing really loud, but I am horrible at it!"

Melissa Marciano, DDC Personnel and Administration, started working for DDC this summer. A very career oriented person, Marciano is planning for a career with the FBI as a lab technician. She felt that getting into the federal government now would help her reach this goal.

Before working here, "I expected people to wear black pants and do strictly business," Marciano said. "It's not like that at all, people are laid back and really nice!" With some federal experience under her belt Marciano says now, "I like helping people and it feels good to know that I have my own responsibilities within the Department of Defense."

Marciano attends West Chester University and will graduate in three years with a bachelor's degree in Forensic Chemistry and a minor in Criminal Justice.

Something you didn't know about Marciano: "I have a pet snake!"

Serena Bostdorf is in her second year working for DDC Personnel and Administration. She chooses to work here because she feels it will provide her with a good opportunity

for a future federal position in the FBI. Although her major is Spanish, with a minor in Criminology, she looks forward to working as a criminal investigator.

Prior to working for DDC, Bostdorf thought shipping merchandise on and off base was the only job that went on. "I didn't know there were offices on base or a lot of responsibilities that needed to be taken care of!" Now when asked how she feels about her job, "I love it." The best part about it, "This is the first challenging job I have had and I really enjoy it. Everyday I learn something new."

Bostdorf will be finishing her last year of school at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Something you didn't know about Serena: "I love Steve Irwin, the Crocodile Hunter!"

Chad Guebert, DDC Strategic Plans, will be finishing his last semester at Virginia Tech. After graduating in December, with a degree in Computer Science and minor in Math and Leadership, he will be commissioned in the U.S. Navy through Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) and hopes to enter the Submarine Community.

Guebert's goal is to be accepted into the nuclear power school in Charleston, SC. He felt that working at DDC would provide good experience prior to graduation.

What Guebert enjoys most about working at DDC is, "working through pressure when I have to work on a lot of projects at once." Overall Guebert is "enjoying the experience. The people are great to work with and I am being challenged!"

Something you didn't know about Guebert: "I was the best loser in a UNC [University of North Carolina] racquet ball tournament!"

Jessica Yost, DDC Logistics Operations, started working for DDC this summer and took the job for good pay, great experience, and a short commute. Yost's least favorite part of her job was; "Getting up early in the morning . . . I am not good at that!" So what's her favorite part? "I like having my own responsibilities. I also like creating charts and working on projects."

Besides working normal hours, Yost didn't know what to expect. She thought she would have a secretarial job where she would answer someone else's phone. Better yet, "I have my own phone!"

Yost is finishing her last year of school at Millersville University and will graduate with a degree in Psychology.

Something you didn't know about Yost: "I am a big fan of 60's and 70's music!"

Ashley Caldwell, DDC Systems Modernization Office, started working for DDC January 2002. She heard about the