

ECT Internship: Harvesting the Collective Wisdom in Educational Technology

By Evrim Baran

The ECT Foundation is the independent charitable arm of AECT. We exist to aid the organization in many ways particularly through awards and scholarships to our members. We know that this is a particularly difficult time for all of us. Any and all donations are fully tax deductible [501.(c)3] and deeply appreciated by our organization, the Foundation and ultimately the recipients of your gifts. We urge you all not to forget us. Foundation members accept no honorariums, stipends or support of any kind.

One of our most rewarding endeavors is our support of the AECT Convention Interns. With Ms. Baran's article we are starting our series of spotlighting the 2010 AECT International Convention Interns. Ms. Baran is a student at Iowa State University and the Lida Cochran Intern for 2009. Unfortunately she was unable to attend but did fulfill her obligations in 2010. We trust that you find her comments interesting.

—Don Descy, editor



Evrin Baran

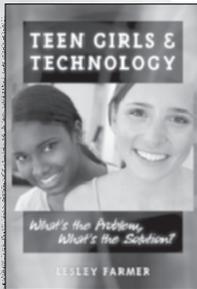
ECT Internship

I still remember the thrilling moment of being notified as one of the 2009 ECT Cochran Interns. I knew I was beginning an exciting journey to experience AECT leadership and activities with a privilege of having a priceless internship medal. In October 2009, while fired up with this excitement and motivation, something unexpected happened.

A brutal flu trapped me at home, leaving me with a very high fever, and thus a great sadness and despair. I thought I had missed a once in a life-time opportunity, yet I was naïve and unfair. After receiving the warm wishes and sympathy from ECT Foundation Board of Trustees, AECT conference planners and other interns-whom I never met, I realized I was already welcomed as an intern to AECT at distance. This is a great proof of how the internship can provide one with valuable connections and friendship at AECT, which do not necessarily require a face-to-face interaction. Following the conference, I had a chance to meet with four other interns through e-mail and several audio conferences where they fed me with the information regarding the service project and insights from the previous conference.

We started working on our service project as early as January 2010 through numerous electronic communication and audio conferences. Given that all 2009 intern group was made up of female doctoral students, together we felt strongly that we and other female fellows have

New Books!



Teen Girls and Technology

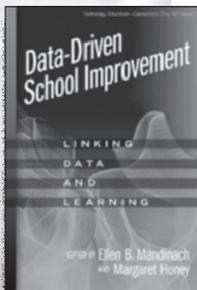
What's the Problem,
What's the Solution?

Lesley Farmer

"This important book shows that teachers, librarians, and parents need to make special efforts and use specific strategies if girls are to have equal computer and online access—and the opportunities it affords."

—**Doug Johnson**, Director of Media and Technology, Mankato Area Public Schools

192 pp./PB, \$21.95/978-0-8077-4875-6
HC, \$52/978-0-8077-4876-3



Data-Driven School Improvement

Linking Data and Learning

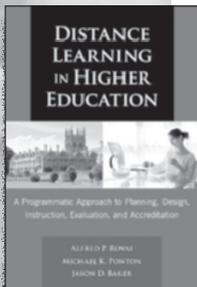
Edited by **Ellen B. Mandinach** and
Margaret Honey

"If you want to understand usable knowledge, read Data-Driven School Improvement."

—**Ellen Condliffe Lagemann**,
Harvard University

Developed in association with the Center for Children and Technology, Education Development Center, Inc., New York, NY.

304 pp./PB, \$51.95/978-0-8077-4856-5
Technology, Education—Connections (The TEC Series)



Distance Learning in Higher Education

A Programmatic Approach to
Planning, Design, Instruction,
Evaluation, and Accreditation

Alfred P. Rovai, **Michael K. Ponton**,
and **Jason D. Baker**

"Instructors, students, and administrators in higher education should keep this book close at hand for quick reference and practical advice on what works in distance learning."

—**Laurie P. Dringus**,
Nova Southeastern University, Graduate School
of Computer and Information Sciences

224 pp./HC \$49/978-0-8077-4878-7

Available at fine bookstores



Teachers College Press
800.575.6566 • www.tcpress.com

a clear indication of each intern's motivation and devotion to the internship experience. Resonating with the theme of our service, we mentored each other on several subjects related to personal life and professional careers, which was a perfect example of female mentorship early in our careers. It was an amazing privilege to work with these outstanding women scholars who helped me to grasp the essence of ECT internship, serve the organization and contribute to the educational technology field. It is the cultivation of the full range of these mentoring and collective work processes that has been essential to my service to AECT this year and thus my own career development in the field.

Moreover, I would like to reframe ECT foundation internship as an experience that not only happens during the conventions, but also extends the conversation and service beyond the conferences. Being recognized as a respectable honor in other venues, ECT internship provides one an invisible all-access pass and a confidence while building connections and starting conversations with the scholars in the field. Hence, I strongly encourage graduate students early in their studies to get involved in various AECT activities during and outside of the conference time, and build up their CVs to apply for this highly prestigious internship award.

Perhaps I should also mention ECT Foundation's kindness of recognizing me as one of 2010 interns and providing me a chance to experience the internship this year at the 2010 AECT convention in Anaheim. This truly reflects ECT Foundation's thoughtfulness and support for the internship program, which not only contributes to the growth of the future leaders in the field furnished with AECT core values but also develops the organization's collective wisdom through welcoming fresh and new ideas. I am excited to be granted another privilege to have a real insight into the association but also further equip myself with the knowledge and skills by gaining first-hand experience in my areas of interests. The opportunity to be intimately involved with the leadership activities of this internationally recognized organization has been certainly a memorable experience that I shall greatly appreciate throughout my career.