



**PRESS RELEASE: Internship Helps Sparta's Thelen Gain Practical Experience at Consumers Energy**

**Betsy L Musolf** to: Archive

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Here is a press release about Ferris State University student Andrew Thelen of Sparta, who is gaining on-the-job experience with an internship at Consumer's Energy in Jackson. Any questions about this release can be directed to Sandy Gholston, News Services and Social Media Manager.



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To read the online version of this story, visit: \_

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2012/july/thelen.htm>



**UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT AND MARKETING**  
420 Oak Street, Prakken 101, Big Rapids, MI 49307  
Phone: (231) 591-2021 Fax: (231) 591-2985  
[www.ferris.edu/news](http://www.ferris.edu/news)

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Sandy Gholston  
News Services and Social Media Manager  
Ferris State University  
University Advancement and Marketing  
[sandygholston@ferris.edu](mailto:sandygholston@ferris.edu), (231) 591-2021

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*Each year, hundreds of Ferris State University students gain valuable work experience through an internship. The experience of an internship also can confirm or redirect career decision-making, provide marketability, develop people skills, and enhance classroom learning. Many academic programs require an internship, but the experience is encouraged regardless to provide students with a better understanding of what will be expected of them in the workplace.*

*Students are participating in internships in a variety of locations this summer. Meet Andrew Thelen:*

## **Andrew Thelen**

**Who:** A senior from Sparta, Mich., majoring in Computer Information Systems

**Internship:** Consumers Energy in Jackson, Mich. The company is one of the nation's largest combination utilities and provides electric and natural gas service to more than 6 million of Michigan's 10 million residents.

**What he's learning:** Thelen is responsible for performing internal Sarbanes-Oxley audits on various information systems the company uses. The audits he performs also are reviewed by Consumers' external auditors.

"I really enjoy the atmosphere at Consumers Energy, because nobody hesitates to help people, and everyone is very friendly," said Thelen, who is being paid for the internship. "I also enjoy the culture and atmosphere my manager has created for his team, which is relaxed and highly productive."

Thelen is learning how the audit process is performed in a Fortune 500 company as well as the different systems Consumers uses. He is required to understand what each system does and why it is needed in order to conduct fully through an audit.

**How he's benefitting:** "I am being exposed to a full range of systems, and I learn a little bit on each and every one, especially on the systems I am auditing," Thelen said. "I'm in a unique position, and I am able to have access to and interact with several C-level executives as a way to ask questions and get an idea of what it takes to work for a company such as Consumers and how they got to where they are today."

**Goal for the future:** Thelen plans to apply for a position with Consumers.

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Betsy Musolf  
News Services Communications Specialist  
Ferris State University  
Advancement and Marketing  
420 Oak St., Prudden 108  
Big Rapids, MI 49307  
Phone: (231) 591-2991