

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, July 6, 2007

## Mayor's "Back-to-School" Fair volunteer coordinator is a UNT student

The City of Dallas is proud to welcome Lauren Melton as an intern in the ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program (CSJP) on behalf of ExxonMobil Foundation. Lauren is completing her degree in Family Studies and Early Childhood Education from The University of North Texas, where she applied for the internship. Her chief duty while on assignment at City Hall will be to help organize the Mayor's "Back-to-School" Fair.

The ExxonMobil Foundation annually provides 75 local nonprofit agencies with grants to hire college students for eight weeks of summer internship. The students are introduced to social, cultural and health service organizations to prepare them for careers or volunteer leadership positions in the nonprofit sector, to develop skill sets useful in other fields of endeavor, and to round out their college experience. Interns' duties can range from office clerk to public relations assistant to graphics artist, just to name a few.

The Volunteer Center of North Texas administers the ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program (CSJP) on behalf of ExxonMobil Foundation. In addition to placing the students in nonprofit agencies for hands-on learning, the Volunteer Center provides the interns with a variety of seminars on topics that address personal improvement and career building, goal setting, communication skills and teamwork, among many others. Students also gather for social activities such as dinners and retreats, and participate in a special project coordinated by the Volunteer Center.

While at the mayor's "Back-To-School" Fair office, Lauren is getting a taste of a wide variety of office and management responsibilities. While coordinating the volunteer training, she also writes requests for individual and corporate volunteers, develops public relations and informational programs to encourage volunteer support and implements volunteer recognition events and activities. Most days she is busy returning emails and phone calls from persons interested in volunteering, as well as creating computer reports to track volunteer information. Lauren says that "even though being an intern provides a limited window of opportunity, it provides a view that allows you to learn a little bit of everything, shows you how to be part of a team and to work for a common goal."

Lauren is looking forward to graduation and a career that will allow her to be an Event Planner/Volunteer Coordinator. She enjoys reading inspirational books, loves Cajun seafood and dreams of taking a trip to Greece. She has four older brother and sisters. Lauren wants "be so good at what I do that I will inspire others to be their very best."

If you are interested in helping Lauren reach her goal of signing up 500 volunteers for this year's Mayor's "Back-to-School" Fair, contact her at 214-671-8520

The Mayor's "Back-to-School" Fair will be Thursday, August 2, 2007 in the Centennial and Automobile Buildings at Fair Park. For more information regarding volunteering or registration call 211 or visit [www.dallascityhall.com](http://www.dallascityhall.com)

Photo next page



Lauren Melton, "Back-to-School" Fair volunteer coordinator