

IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FSU Communication Studies Major Contributes a Great Hand to the EDJ Associates Inc,

Frostburg, Maryland, August 2, 2009 - - EDJ Associates Inc, located in Rockville MD, has benefited from the creative contributions of Frostburg State University (FSU) Communication Studies major Stephanie Hood. The Frostburg State University Department of Communication Studies requires students to fulfill a Capstone experience in the form of a practicum or internship in order to gain professional experience outside an academic setting prior to earning a bachelor's degree. EDJ Associates focus is the implementation of a wide range of projects in the areas of event planning, peer review support, and information management. Hood's contribution to the government-contracting agency has enhanced the promptness of the company.

EDJ Associates is a women-owned management consulting and technical services firm based in Reston, Virginia. EDJ has established a solid track record of success in design and implementation of wide range projects in the areas of event planning, peer review support and information management. Hood began her Capstone practicum with EDJ Associates in June 2009. As an intern she assisted with administration responsibilities and coordinated event logistics for the company, such as attending weekly meetings with a meeting planner, providing onsite support at meetings, assembling meetings materials, and preparing logistic and confirmation letters.

As an active member of several activities on the FSU, she has helped the office create a dynamic process for administration and planning of meeting and events. EDJ associates has an abundant number of successful meetings that EDJ meeting planners organize and host including SLC Smaller learning Community Project Directors meeting held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Capital Hill, Washington D.C., as well as Becky's Fund supporting Domestic Violence Awareness Nationals Park in Washington D.C.

Hood says, "I used what I learned from the FSU's Communication Studies Department, which has helped me apply my interpersonal and organization communication skills in an office setting. I'm used to directing students in one of the three organizations I am involved in at FSU, the African Student Alliance. Being in a different atmosphere gave me a chance to show my personality and dedication to having success and achieving missions. I love making a difference in different areas of specialized practices."

Hood's preparation for the internship included knowledge from classes she had previously taken in the Communication Studies major. Some of these courses are Introduction to Human Communication, Interviewing, Management of

Organizations, Presentational Communication, Small Group Communication, Language and Behavior, and Argumentation and Advocacy. All of these classes had assisted the advancement at EDJ Associates Inc. Nevertheless, the Interviewing and Management of Organizations courses provided her with insight that she found valuable at the government-contracting agency.

Interviewing and Presentational Communication has given Hood much practice a semester before the internship. Hood says, "Interviewing required me to perform interviews with students on and off campus. Presentation is very essential to interviewing; both practices are very vital and definitely helped when I came to EDJ Associates."

"Stephanie's good work ethic and professionalism has aided the staff at EDJ in a positive way. Having Stephanie in the office allowed the staff to take care of additional business that was important to complete as soon as possible. She was trusted with the logistics in the office which made it easier on all the staff," says Rose Hood, Senior Meeting Planner at EDJ Associates -as well as an in-law of the FSU senior. All of the staff appreciates Stephanie's efforts: "Stephanie has been a great asset and presence in the office," says meeting planner, Tara Turner.

Hood has benefited from the experience as well. Working with the office has given her a profound insight on the logistics of office administration. This experience has enhanced her communications skills as well as her organization skills. She hopes to influence more Communication Studies majors to explore the meeting planning experience. Hood also recommended this office for future capstone experiences.

"I have grown so much through this experience at EDJ and I am truly looking forward to working with them again in the future." Hood accomplished her goals interning at EDJ Associates and she believes that many Communication Studies majors will do the same.

Dr. Elesha Ruminski, who served as Hood's Capstone advisor, says she is proud of the professionalism that EDJ fostered in Hood. "Stephanie has grown into a young professional through the experience; she presents herself and her organization well."

To learn more about the Communication Studies Department at FSU, contact interim department chair and assistant professor of Communication Studies, Dr. Ruminski, at 301-687-4480 or at elruminski@frostburg.edu. For more information about EDJ Associates contact Karen Bray, at 240 221-4374 or at kbray@edjassociates.com