ERM Concentration: MAC Program, NC State University, Poole College of Management

Mark Beasley: “I think the ERM practicum at NC State is providing a unique learning opportunity for students that they can’t find at most other universities because they are in there working very closely with senior executives of companies, real companies, that are trying to make money in today’s marketplace. We’re helping them think through their most important strategic risk. That’s a pretty unique learning experience.”

Alejandra Hernandez Gomez: “The classroom experience and the concepts we learn are important, but there’s no better learning experience than actually going into the field and seeing what it’s like.”

Justin Vaughan: “You get to work with this organization, with their top management, and it just develops a lot of great experiences and a lot of new skills when working with an outside organization.”

Dian Chen: “We worked in a team of four, working with all different types of clients so we have some in different industries. We can see how the ERM process applies in each industry.”

Denise Buchanan: “I had never really thought about risk in terms of numbers until we saw it up on the screen when the students at NC State presented it to us. It changed the way I thought about risk from a compliance perspective.”

Mark Beasley: “We are really solving the client’s situation together. I don’t walk in with all the answers because I don’t have them all. We solve them together, and I think that’s a fascinating experience for the student and for the faculty.”

Thomas Graham: “When we presented our report and our final presentation, I think I was shocked by how much information we were able to give them. It really was well received; it started a dialogue and really had them talking about it, which was the goal of this entire practicum, to get them talking about the key risks for the department.”

James Greenwell: “Whether you want to take what they deliver and simply use that, or use that as a springboard to other risk analysis that you want to do, I think what they produce is an invaluable piece of material.”

Denise Buchanan: “We were so excited. Really, it was very innovative for us to do this, and it was the beginning of our whole effort at ERM.”

Mark Beasley: “Quite frankly, the students get a huge sense of satisfaction for accomplishing a very challenging task, a very intimidating task, but a very beneficial task. When they leave the practicum, I think they realize they have really added value to a company. It’s been more than a class or a project, it’s been more of a value adding activity for the clients that we serve.”