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Center Contracting graduates nine from CP-14 Internship Program

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HUNTSVILLE, Ala. – Nine Center Contracting interns received certificates marking the completion of their three-year intern program at a Huntsville Center ceremony Aug. 16.

John Mayes, chief of Contracting, presented certificates to Lequita Byrd-Craig, Sentrae Davis, Brandalyn Fox, Jill Freeman, Melody Hinkle, James Long, Nicholas Moore, Paul Wiggins and Katrena Winchester. Jacqueline Woodson, deputy Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting-Winchester, attended the event that also recognized employees marking service milestones.

Mayes challenged the interns to use their current jobs to learn as much as possible and add as much value as possible to the teams where they will be assigned. Woodson shared wisdom and lessons learned through her own career path, encouraging them to do their very best.

“As a leader in the contracting profession, it is significantly important to me that we train and mentor these interns into outstanding contracting professionals who understand why we do what we do, and who uphold the highest level of integrity. In the days of shrinking budgets, it is critical that our interns understand the importance of achieving the best value for the government, as well as how to get the team to a successful end. This is our ultimate goal for all who go through this program,” Mayes said.

For Wiggins, graduating the Huntsville Center intern program is a career milestone.

Wiggins said he took advantage of all training opportunities that were available to him. He successfully maneuvered rotation on the Furniture team, managed the 852 Program during a three-month rotation at the Headquarters U.S. Army Corps of Engineers National Contracting Organization, served as the lead contract specialist on a suite of high visibility acquisitions with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller, and led the team of contract specialists that prepped, planned and hosted the 2012 Intern Summit in Huntsville.

“It has definitely taken a lot of sacrifice and hard work on my part, but was well worth the effort,” Wiggins said. “It was a great experience. I came, I saw, I conquered!”

Terrence Hamil manages the intern program for the Contracting Directorate. Hamil said this is the directorate’s fourth formal intern graduation.

“To date, approximately 16 interns have graduated from this program. We have an additional 34 interns remaining in the program,” he said.

The CP-14 intern program prepares individuals to assume positions as journeymen contracting professionals. Interns gain experience through on-the-job training, formal classroom training, and rotations through different teams within the Contracting Directorate to learn skills related to procurement of services, supplies, construction, and oversight and policy functions.

Interns can also be selected to fill rotational assignments outside of Huntsville Center at HQ USACE; the PARC office(s) and other districts/centers. Upon completion of the intern program, each individual graduates with a Level II Defense Acquisition Certification in Contracting.

To be eligible for the intern program, candidates must have a bachelor's degree in any discipline, 24 hours in business-related courses such as accounting, finance, management, economics, marketing, contract law, higher level mathematics such as calculus, etc., and a 2.5 grade point average.

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