



## What's in It for Interns?

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9/1/2009

**Planners aren't the only ones** who benefit from using volunteer hospitality students. The students themselves reap the rewards of getting real-time experience at events, making valuable business contacts and, possibly, developing mentor relationships.

Marco Fernandez, 37, who attends the International School of Hospitality in Las Vegas, worked for planner Pat Norman CMP at a meeting of the National Medical Association this past July. Fernandez pitched in at the registration desk, giving directions and helping fill out forms. For the rest of the conference, he answered general questions about the day's agenda.

"It was great," Fernandez says. "I had attended conferences before where I had to register, and I never really appreciated how it was done. It was nice to be able to confirm in person the details of what I've learned, and to see all the booths and kiosks." When he goes back home to Chicago after graduation, "these internships will make me feel more confident when I go looking for a job," Fernandez says.