Bella Smith ’26 Gains Real-World Experience At Summer Internship

WORCESTER — Bella Smith, a finance and economics major at Assumption, spent the summer at Cornerstone Bank, as part of its summer internship program. Smith worked in learning and development.



Bella Smith, far left.

“It was a great learning experience,” Bella says. “I was able to learn the ins-and-outs of community banking. Cornerstone did a wonderful job us explore all parts of banking. Rarely were we doing the same things every week.”

Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman says the idea is to offer real-world experience that integrates with what students learn in the classroom.

“Interns gain valuable skills, work on meaningful projects, and make professional connections,” Mr. Tallman says. “We also benefit from their enthusiasm and perspectives, so it’s a win-win situation.”

The goal is to enable Bella and other interns to explore career opportunities and begin to build a professional network, he says.

At Assumption, paid and unpaid internships for students are secured through the University’s Career Development and Internship Center’s combination of one-on-one advising with extensive resources and the valuable connections that will favorably position students for that first internship, job or admission to graduate school. Summer internships or internships during the fall or spring semester are encouraged for all Assumption students.

According to Bella, she had the opportunity to engage in community support efforts, attend Cornerstone Bank events, and network.

“I was able to shadow other departments as well,” she says, “including investments and commercial credit. I also went on shadow days and volunteered at a food pantry.”

Among the projects and tasks she took on were creating and updating training programs and attending meetings with the marketing department and vendors, she says.

Cornerstone’s internship program started in 2021 and is open to both high school and college students. It offers both part-time and full-time internships, with most students choosing to intern for 38 hours per week. Each intern goes through an interview process so that they can be placed into the department that best aligns with their goals and interests. All interns are paid and are eligible to get school credit upon completion of the program.