Attachment A
UW-Stout Cooperative Education Students
Qualitative Data from 2007-2008

All of the Cooperative Education students complete an evaluation of their Cooperative Education experience when they are finished. In order to capture how Cooperative Education *enhanced the learning environment* for UW-Stout students, it is important to share some actual quotes from Cooperative Education students. These are highlights of how co-op students responded to the following question:
"In what ways was this work assignment meaningful to your academic program?"
Questions or comments, please contact Amy Lane, Coordinator of Cooperative Education, UW-Stout Career Services, (715) 232-1129.

Art - Multimedia Design/ Graphic Design students wrote:

- "I can <u>apply</u> what I'm learning, while I'm learning it, to real world applications".
- "I think that <u>everyone should be required</u> to find a co-op. It made me want to graduate. I wish that I was done already so that I could go work".
- "It showed me what really happens in the real world and how they deal with <u>problems</u>".
- "It put into reality how much I want to succeed. I also would like to become more independent and <u>possibly own my own business</u>".

Art – Interior Design students wrote:

- "I feel I have learned a lot about the business side of being a <u>small Interior Design Business</u>. Especially within the present struggles of the economy, I feel I have really been faced with the truth of reality".
- "I was able to take what I have learned and studied and use it in <u>real life situations</u> in real design situations".

Apparel Design and Development students wrote:

- " It really helped me realize <u>how important my education</u> is to me. I now understand why I had to take certain classes as well as learn certain things in those classes. It really helps you put a <u>value</u> on your education".
- "The work assignments given were meaningful to my academic program in that that they tested my knowledge and abilities in <u>real life situations</u>. I learned what skills were more relevant to focus on in school".
- "It was very meaningful because it allowed me to explore an area of the industry I am going to school for. I enjoyed it very much and it allowed me to <u>build on</u> the knowledge I already had from my classes at Stout".
- "It allowed me to work as a designer using materials other than apparel fabrics. It taught me how to work within a <u>budget</u> and how cost determines whether a product will go to market or not".
- "I was able to put skills learned in the classroom to work in <u>the real world</u>. These skills hadn't been expanded to their full capabilities in college, so it was great to use them in the real world".

Applied Science students wrote:

- I feel co-op confirmed my goals of what I want to do upon graduation. Also, it <u>helped me get ahead</u> in my optometric goals, of being an optometrist".
- "It allowed me to see how other labs work and <u>shot my confidence through the roof.</u> It gave me new laboratory skills and allowed me to perfect some of the skills I already had. I learned more properties of chemicals and certain ways to analyze them".
- "The work assignment is exactly what <u>nanomagnetics</u> is all about. It mirrored everything from Material Science".
- "It helped to bring a look at what programming in the real world looks like. <u>The school projects do little to no justice</u> to what a real world program would take and look like".
- "It gave me knowledge about technologies available in the field of applied science. It helped me in utilizing my lab skills and being more independent".
- "It gave me a look at two different <u>web-based languages</u> that I will not be learning at Stout".

Business Administration students wrote:

- "It was very <u>foundational.</u> Without the hands on experience, you are not fully trained for what your career can throw at you".
- "This work assignment clarified and made everything I learned in school a lot more <u>meaningful</u>. Also, by doing some of the things I learned over and over, they started to become skills and not just memorization".
- "It helped me understand the <u>flow</u> of supply chain management in regards to lead time, suggested order quantities, order point, planned sales days and average rate of daily weekly sales".
- "I got to learn about and ultimately run a <u>55 million dollar store</u>. I got to see all sides of the business and see why and how decisions are made".
- "I have so much knowledge that I will be able to take back to my classes. I will really understand my business classes better from this experience".
- "It <u>put into action</u> everything that I had done in my course work. It solidified what I already knew and in nearly all aspects <u>expanded my knowledge</u> by being able to see what can go wrong and what can be done to <u>solve organizational problems</u>".
- "It showed me what the real business world is like and gave me experience. It also <u>tied together</u> all of my business classes and what I have learned thus far at stout".
- "I feel that this internship experience has helped <u>bring full circle</u> the knowledge learned in the classroom. I was able to apply that knowledge to real situations and gain feedback from them. I also furthered my education by attending property management training during my internship. It allowed me to obtain a better, more complete understanding of the property management field".
- "The school and work experiences are both very different, <u>but both necessary</u>. I feel that this job assignment has strengthened my academic program greatly. It was such a invaluable experience for me to finally apply and witness the different HR procedures that I have learned in school. The work experience just has given me that extra boost of confidence and has confirmed for me the type of career goals and education I want to pursue in my future."

Construction Management students wrote:

- "Mayo Clinic has <u>reinforced everything</u> I have learned over the years. From the estimating to the managing of construction sites I have used my entire background to be successful at the Mayo Clinic. This work environment has given me the understanding of the owners' side in the construction field".
- "This co-op assignment was an amazing experience and helped me grasp a better understanding of what the real construction industry is like. It further developed my skills in the field aspects of construction along with helping develop new skills in the office, and all of the connections between the two. This assignment has <u>broadened my views</u> and experiences in the construction industry, along with building my <u>confidence</u> in making big decisions in the responsibilities I had to face".
- "This assignment is meaningful to my academic program because it will allow me to understand more of what I learn in the classroom and be able to apply it".
- "It has <u>encouraged me to succeed</u> in all of my studies, in anticipation of receiving a full time job with them after college".
- "My knowledge gained up to this point was tested every day on the job. Throughout the summer I developed a better understanding of what to look for in my academic endeavors. When projects are assigned I will have a better understanding of what is actually expected in industry rather than what gets a grade. Therefore, my work assignment has created/opened new avenues for me to challenge myself and peers to <u>create a level of quality beyond the academic realm</u>".
- "I feel that any experience I receive in the construction field will help me throughout my college career. It was the first time I saw, first hand, structural steel being set, setting up and defining proposals, performing and seeing the results of a steel take-off. In the classroom you are told how to do some of these things and get a grade on assignments, but you never get to see the "real results". It gave me a great amount of confidence".
- "It increased <u>my communication skills</u> as well as my understanding of project management".

Engineering Technology students wrote:

- "The co-op <u>renewed my interest</u> to what I am studying, helped me see a preview of what it's like to be an engineer, be in charge of projects".
- "This experience has <u>taught me knowledge that cannot be learned in the classroom</u>. This was my first professional job and I learned much more than just about thermoforming. I have more <u>confidence</u> and have an understanding of what to expect for a future full time job. This is knowledge that cannot be taught in the classroom."
- "Was a <u>well rounded experience</u> where my supervisors taught me every little detail of their day to day successes and failures".

Golf Enterprise Management students wrote:

- "I have received <u>hands on experience that is not possible to obtain in a classroom</u>. I think it has given me a rounded background in the industry".
- "It is the perfect <u>well-rounded</u> job experience (especially for a beginner in the golf industry). I was able to understand what it takes to be successful manager, but

3

also to basically think like an owner as well. I know that I walked away from this internship with greatly improved <u>management skills</u>, as well as, a great deal much better understanding of golf as a business".

- "I have a better idea of what <u>classes</u> are more important to succeed in this industry".
- "I made many <u>connections with discussions in class to the work</u> I was doing on a daily basis".

- **Graphic Communication Management student wrote:**

- "The co-op <u>brought everything that I was taught in school all together</u>. You can be taught everything that you are supposed to know, but until you actually do it for yourself, only then do you get a real understanding of it".

Hospitality and Tourism Management students wrote:

- "It was meaningful to my academic program because it took what you learned in class to a whole different level with the hands on experience while on the job".
- "This was meaningful because I was able to practice techniques I learned in class. I feel hands-on experiences benefit any student in the Hospitality and Tourism program. It's all about working well with others, whether it be co-workers or customers".
- "I'm thankful to have this <u>confidence</u> going into my senior year of college as well. It just helps reassure that I'm doing the right thing and I know it will lower my stress level in the future months. It really does <u>help to have this as a requirement</u> for graduation".
- "It has implemented a lot of the knowledge I have acquired since being in school. It has also helped me realize that I <u>still have more to learn</u>".
- "It was nice to <u>reflect </u>on how the co-op was going for me. After writing my first report I felt more confident in knowing what all I actually accomplish each day at work".
- "I now can see how my classes relate to my major. I remember taking a class on <u>leadership vs. management</u>. At the time I didn't see how that class applied to me, but now I wish I would have paid more attention. I've also realized that I learn a lot more through work experience than I do in the classroom alone. You can read about things in books, but until you actually apply what you learn, you don't realize how important classes are".
- "I learned how to work with many <u>different ethnic backgrounds</u>".
- "The overall co-op has helped me put my courses for this field into better perspective, along with allowing me to bring my personal experience back to Stout to further <u>enhance my learning</u> during my final semester".

Packaging students wrote:

- "I have <u>learned more about packaging in this co-op than I have had at all my packaging courses</u>".
- "I learned a lot about what I would actually be doing if I got a job in Packaging Development. I learned what process most projects go through and I understand what part I will play once I get a job. I liked what I was doing, so it helped me decide that I wanted to <u>continue my education in Packaging</u>".

- "I got to see how a <u>small business works</u> with clients, deals with suppliers, and designs both in house jobs and jobs for clients".
- "I was able to take what I have learned and put it to real situations and scenarios. Also have <u>learned more than I have in the classroom in these 3 months alone</u>".
- "I had a great opportunity to use what I have learned outside of the classroom. This helped to refresh topics I had learned in the past and to build onto them".
- "It allowed me to gain a much <u>stronger understanding</u> of the daily routines of a Packaging Engineer. I was also able to gain some exposure in the food packaging field".

Retail Management and Merchandising students wrote:

- "This term at Deer Valley gave me the <u>drive and motivation to finish</u> my degree. This helped me realize that this is the correct career choice for me".
- "This experience was great because I really was able to <u>apply everything I learned</u>, and use it in my work on a daily bases. I cannot think of one class that did not help me this summer. It really reassured me that everything I am learning is going to help me in some way or another in any career I choose".
- "It helped me <u>expand</u> my customer service skills. This job also gave me a background sense to what vendor/sales people have to do".
- "Every task that I was assigned I was able to <u>apply prior knowledge</u> from my retail classes at Stout. Even if I didn't engage in a project, I was able to understand the concepts because of my preparation at Stout".
- "I was able to apply learning from my classes to my internship, and now I believe I will be able to apply what I learned during my internship to my classes this fall. I wish I would have had my co-op <u>earlier because it was such a beneficial learning experience</u>".
- "It gave me the hands on and real life experience I needed to put the things I learned in my courses to use. With this experience I will be able to go into my next job with <u>confidence</u>".

Service Management/Non-Profit students wrote:

- "It was very meaningful because I was able to pull out what I learned and gained in a classroom to the <u>real world</u>. My education helped me work with people in the service management industry".
- "I gained so much valuable experience through this work program. I love <u>hands-on</u> learning through <u>actually serving people as opposed to just reading about it</u> in a textbook".

Technical Communication students wrote:

- "It was nice to see the <u>professional side</u> of things. I feel that I will take a lot away from this experience and definitely take it with me where ever I end up".
- "The internship reflected the skills and knowledge that I learned in the Technical Communication program, so I <u>learned and adapted quickly</u>".