

ShortTakes

On Campus

Student Group Training Tomorrow's Consultants

WHILE MANY CONSULTANTS DON'T GET first-hand experience in the field until they are placed on a project, students in a group called Students Consulting for Non-Profit Organizations actually get the opportunity to explore the career before committing to it. At Michigan State University, one of two

“When I found out you can do this for a job, it blew me away.”

Joel Clum, Michigan State University

schools the organization has a chapter at (the other is the University of Arizona), the organization has helped dozens of groups in the Lansing, Mich., area.

MSU senior finance major and Accenture hire-in-waiting Joel Clum heads up the completely student-run organization and already has the mindset of a project manager. “We try to put people on engagements that they’re going to do well on,” he says, explaining nonprofits approach the group with a project in mind, and the organization determines if it has the expertise to handle the projects. “It’s completely free for the nonprofit. The only thing they have to invest in is time and resources,” Clum said. Then teams of a half dozen students are sent in to work with the organization to meet its objective. Trust, Clum says, is a two-way street.

SCNO (online at www.msuscno.org) has created donor databases, worked on



marketing campaigns and provided other services to more than 70 organizations since its 2003 inception. And while not all of his fellow students will go into consulting, Clum himself says he's excited about his future in the industry. [When I found out] you can do this for a job, it blew me away," he says. —Jaqueline Duret