TAKE 5 By Jennifer Evans

Laurie Spieker named WHC-TV Intern of the Year

Franklin Pierce University student Laurie Spieker, was recognized by the West Hartford Community Television Board of Directors as the Intern of the Year for her ardent enthusiasm, television production scholarship and exceptional contributions to the station.

Laurie, a West Hartford resident and Hall High graduate, was a regular at the studio prior to becoming an intern. When asked about her internship, she said it was a great experience.

“I got to use the cameras, edit and create graphics but one of the special things about Channel 5 is the people you meet. Each one has interesting story to tell.”

WHC-TV interns are given real projects to do and each one produces at least one program that telecasts on the channel. One of Laurie’s projects focused on local businesses and how they are navigating this challenging economy.

"From day one they make you feel like you are part of the team. They don't send you off to get coffee or stick you behind a desk.

Instead you're actually doing things."

West Hartford Community Television has a history of helping young people develop their production, communication and life skills. This award was established in 1986 and awarded annually until 2004 as The Wire mold Company Fellowship. It was established to assist the cable access center in providing hands-on experience in video production to students who work at the station for college credit and to explore career options in television.

Although there is no longer a monetary prize, we felt it was important to bring the award back.

Jitu Huntley, WHC-TV Programming Coordinator, presented her with a certificate of appreciation at the June meeting of the Board of Directors.

"Laurie is so outstanding and we thought she deserved recognition for her work this year. Whenever we ask her to do something her standard answer is "no problem." We know we can count on her.

Laurie is interested in sports and would like to work at ESPN someday. We know that soon we will be saying we knew her when and pointing her name out on the WHC-TV Wall of Fame to future interns as an example of a student who got her start right here in West Hartford.

For further information about internship opportunities at West Hartford Community Television, call the studio at 561-1260 or send an e-mail to Jitu.Huntley@westhartford.org