



EideBailly
Gold Employer Partner 2011-12

EideBailly is a national accounting firm, serving tens of thousands of clients with tax advisory, audit, and payroll services. According to EideBailly employee and MSU Billings alumna Debbie Potter, the firm strives “to be the client’s trusted advisor, helping with anything for tax and accounting.” Potter, a lively, engaging accountant quite at odds with her industry’s “tweedy” stereotype, has been in the industry for years, and offers a unique perspective for any student looking

to get into professional number-crunching.

Internships are the order of the day when dealing with accounting firms such as EideBailly. The firm looks first and foremost for students with accounting internships, as well as a student’s grades and classes. Potter took those college-level accounting courses, and knows what students need to excel in the accounting world. An internship is important, she says, but employers also look hard at “initiative, passion for the job, and (a student’s) work ethic.”

Potter credits her internship with accounting firm KPMG as a key element in her own employment at EideBailly. Fortune favors prepared students; accounting firms recruit a year in advance, hiring in the month of October, so new recruits are ready to work over one year later. For example, students recruited in October 2011 will be on the job in January 2013. “Don’t wait,” Potter says. “If you’re looking for a job right before graduation, you’re already a year behind.”

When interviewing, Potter has this to say: “Be yourself, but be professional.” Professional dress and manner are integral to a successful interview, but Potter explains that a little personality is always welcome. The people, she says, are the most important part of the job. In an industry that changes with every new tax law and is working to develop business despite the radical economic shift several years ago, people are what make the job worthwhile. “It’s all about people and relationships, one way or another, internally and externally,” Potter says.

Partnering with Career Services has benefitted EideBailly since 2008, Potter says. The **Employer Partnership program allows Gold Partner EideBailly** to get involved on campus, offering a voice in guiding students, and meeting others in the community. Networking is a major benefit in the Employer Partnership Program; other businesses also could gain knowledge of what MSU Billings has to offer students, with the chance to “hire from home and keep people here in Montana, (so they don’t) have to go anywhere else.”

Students looking for more information about EideBailly can visit www.eidebailly.com, the MSU Billings Career Services office, and schedule on-campus interviews during the October recruiting season. Interested students may also submit a résumé at any time: “We’re always looking for good people,” Ms. Potter says.