



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

John Cauthorn
18th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 426
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101
PHONE (573) 751-6858
TDD (573) 751-3969
FAX (573) 751-6900
EMAIL
john_cauthorn@senate.state.mo.us

For Immediate Release:
May 13, 2004

Contact: Jerry Dowell
(573) 751-6858

Interns Assist Senate Offices While Learning Legislative Process

*Kari Willhite, Bobby McCutcheon and Cassie Carpenter
Helped Senator Cauthorn's Capitol Office Run Smoothly*

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – With the year's regular legislative session in the record books, Senator John Cauthorn, R-Mexico, today took time out to recognize the time, talent and effort expended by legislative interns Kari Willhite of Jacksonville, Illinois, Bobby McCutcheon of Sturgeon, Missouri and Cassie Carpenter of Madison, Missouri.

“Without a doubt, a great deal of my office's legislative success this year lies with Kari, Bobby and Cassie,” Cauthorn said. “Their intelligence, courtesy and willingness to help became immediately evident to everyone they worked with. They were a tremendous help to me, my staff and by extension, those I'm charged with representing in the Missouri Senate.”

Willhite, daughter of Joni Maaser of Jacksonville, Illinois, and Ed Willhite of Troy, Illinois, graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science from Truman State University and begins law school at Valparaiso later this year.

“I've had the opportunity to learn about a host of topics through firsthand experience that I would only have been able to ready about were it not for the senate intern program,” Willhite said.

McCutcheon, son of Sturgeon residents Bob and Colleen, served as a legislative intern through the spring semester as part of the curriculum for earning a political science degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

“This real world exposure allows me to put in practice what I’ve learned in my coursework and makes me all the more prepared for beginning my career following graduation,” McCutcheon said.

Carpenter, daughter of Wayne and Pam Carpenter of Madison, Missouri, is as junior at Central Missouri State in Warrensburg studying political science and plans on attending law school upon graduation.

“I learned a lot through this internship, it has given me a hands on perspective that expounds upon what I have read in a textbook or heard in the classroom,” Carpenter said.

During the year’s regular legislative session, which began in early January and ran through May 14, Willhite, McCutcheon and Carpenter fielded calls from Cauthorn’s 18th District constituents, kept tabs on pending legislation and handled countless other administrative duties.

Senate President Pro Tem Peter Kinder, R-Cape Girardeau, notes that many senators capitalize on the benefits gleaned through the senate internship program.

“Having these bright and eager young people onboard during the session is mutually beneficial,” Kinder said. “Senators gain much needed help during this very busy legislative time and interns gain on-the-job experience useful in pursuing their career paths.”



Senate President Pro Tem Peter Kinder, Legislative Intern Kari Willhite, Legislative Intern Bobby McCutcheon and Senator John Cauthorn in the Senate lounge in the Missouri Statehouse during the closing days of the General Assembly’s 2004 regular legislative session. (Carpenter not pictured)

Electronic copies of this photo can be emailed – call Mike Asmus in Senate Communications at: (573) 751-3824.