

## **Presentation of Case Study of Internship Training Program at Biwako Seikei Sport College**



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### **Abstract**

Biwako Seikei Sport College opened in April 2003 as Japan's first college with the word “sport” in its name. The college was founded on the ideal of creating a new, internationally viable sport culture, breaking free from the closed orientation of physical education. Since that time the college has been engaged in training human resources that will contribute to the development of sports. There are one school, two departments and six courses. The School of Sport is comprised of the Department of Sport for Life and the Department of Athletic Sport. The Department of Sport for Life is comprised of Outdoor Education, Sport in the Community, and Sport and Physical Education courses, while the Department of Athletic Sport is comprised of Athletic Training and Health, Coaching and Technique, and Management and Information courses. From April 2007 and on, the maximum enrollment will be increased from 180 students per year of study to 270, and a new Sport Information Strategy course will be added to the Department of Athletic Sport. The Management and Information course will be renamed the Sport Business course, and the college will begin efforts to provide even more specialized education.

The college aims to train sports professionals with a high level of specialist sports knowledge and practical skills and has emphasized teaching methods which focus on practical training in the educational policy. The college provides practical education and has placed at least two specialist training classes worth one credit in each course students take during their third year. Furthermore, internship training is a requirement for all students and is performed in the third year.

Internship training is divided into pre-internship training, on-site training and post-internship training. Pre-internship training is held in the term before the third year and involves the opportunity to study the current sports scene and social manners. Post-internship training includes various seminars such as internship debriefing sessions in the latter term. In principle, on-site training is performed for two weeks (about 80 hours) during summer vacation. It is up to the student himself/herself to find a sports organization for the internship that is appropriate for the specialization of his or her course. The organization is determined after a consultation with a guidance counselor. Among the organizations chosen for internships in 2005, those in the service industry and education and learning-related organizations made up the largest percentage, at 38.8% of the whole. Next was medical and welfare/disability related organizations at 10.2%, followed by the manufacturing industry at 3.9%. Also included in the organizations chosen as places for internship were those in the wholesale and retail industry, local authorities and the information/communication industries.

A questionnaire survey was conducted on students who participated in internships during 2005, and many of them responded that they had a solid sense of accomplishment after the internship. 94% of the students responded that “participating in the internship provided a reference for choosing an occupation,” and 93% responded that “the internship helped foster an appetite for learning.” Furthermore, 80% of the students responded that “knowledge and skills learned at college were useful in the internship,” which provides a positive evaluation of the basic studies within the college that they are related to practical internship training.

It has been four years since the college opened, and the first of the students are set to graduate. One of the major issues is how many students can be sent off to jobs where their specialist sports knowledge and practical skills can be put to use. The flow of studies within the college from basic education to practical internship training requires the establishment of an educational system that leads to jobs in the sports field as well as cultivation of the job market.