JEANIE PITTMAN: I get to know every student who comes through the Human Development WSU online program. If they are majoring in human development, I serve as their internship coordinator. So I watch these students who are scared to death in 497 who think they can't make it through an internship process, and then I get to see those same students about a semester later coming through the internship process. So it's like raising a child, in a way. I get to watch them struggle learning how to walk. And then all of a sudden, they're running a race.

And they're so proud of themselves. I get thank-you cards. I get folks telling me, I couldn't have done it without you. And I always say, no, you did it yourself. All I was was that scaffolding. I just held you in one place while you stepped up on it. And then I raised it a little bit more. You stepped up again. You did the work.

And I think that's the really important part about the way in which we do our internship programs. I don't tell students where to go. They do their own self-assessments. They find their own internship. Then, I support them with all the WSU structure. We make phone calls to their mentor. I make visits to their sites. I read their papers about their experiences. I give them encouragement. Sometimes I give them a job reference. But I don't do it. They do it.

So it's a nice experience. It's a really good experience for me, as well.

Many times, folks think on-campus courses are more interactive, more personable, then a distance course. Maybe that's true in that you can see that person face-to-face. I would have to say I have more interaction with students because they are online.

For example, in a distance course, each student must talk in order to be recognized. And what I mean by talk is they must post to the discussion post. You ask a question. They post. They must respond to someone else. They post. I get to read that. I get to read their thoughts. And I get to read what their impressions are of the course and of other people's comments.

I spend two to three weeks per semester driving around the State of Washington, connecting with mentors in the field, connecting with interns who are out there, and making connections with the community members.

What I'd like prospective students to know is that when they earn a degree through WSU online, they're earning a WSU degree. They're not earning a WSU online degree. And the
reason I say that is because sometimes students they think that their online degree is less of a degree then an on-campus degree.

And when students say that, when students put that on the resume-- I'm getting a bachelor's in human development through WSU online-- I say, WSU online is the portal. They came out to you. They're the conduit. But you're getting a WSU degree. And be very proud of that. Put down WSU on your resume.