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Internship Reflection #3

8/13/14

It seems as if I was just taking my last final back in May. The time has truly flown by. This summer has officially ended in my books since there is exactly one week left until students return to campus for another academic year. The end of summer also brings me to the end of a personal and professional benchmark, the end of my first internship. This Opportunity has given me a little perspective on exactly where I’ve been, where I am, and where I would like to be.

Some of the skills that I have developed will most definitely make me a better person and worker. Just to name a few: active listing, building rapport, dealing with inconveniences in a mature way, accepting rejection, and building relationships. From some of the relationships I have made some great connections with people who are very successful, such as business professionals of small and large corporations, attorneys, bankers, etc. As for my specific career path I have come to the realization this summer that I do not know what I want to do, but I know who I am. I think that this degree is such a versatile one that I really can go in so many directions and that is okay with me. I have learned many valuable lifelong lessons this summer that can be used in many different work settings.

My original three goals in my learning plan were to work on organization, time management, and strategic thinking. Each of these goals that I set for myself showed up one way or another throughout the 9 weeks. At the start of the internship I was skeptical as to what situations I might come across. A real example from my time in the field was when I had an appointment with a man and didn’t realize I had already scheduled another appointment at the same time with another individual. Organization of my daily schedule needed to be worked on.

The biggest obstacle that I faced was not getting discouraged when I faced challenges. The majority of the time I faced a problem it wasn’t the problem, it was my attitude about the problem. Every time I did in fact have something that I needed assistance with my recruitment manager Courtney Conklin was such a big help. Our once a week calls were a big part of the internship.

I can recall hearing a story from professor Steve shield about a time where he was working as an event planner and had to organize an event in which he ordered chicken dinners for over 100 people and it started raining. He told us that he asked the delivery guy what to do and he replied, “ That’s your problem.” I got a kick out of that because that’s what will happen from time to time. The most important thing I’ve learned about myself this summer is gratitude. I am very grateful to even have been given such a unique and fun experience. Being placed in the top 10 among all interns for sales is defiantly what I am most proud of myself for; it’s an honor and one of my greatest accomplishments.

I can absolutely say that after the 9-week internship with Dardis academy I have a better sense of what it takes to be successful in a working environment. Professionalism is something that must be kept on a daily basis. As for what I could improve on, time efficiency would be one as well as not getting to discouraged over things that don’t go my way. Letting go of what I cannot control is a big one for me personally. My final exit evaluation took place July 23rd over the phone. I was given a number ranking 1-5 on specific areas of expertise, 1 being the lowest, 5 being the highest on things such as professionalism, accountability, communication skills, and if I would be considered for future employment with the company. I received an over all score of three, and a yes for employment. Overall this was a very worthwhile experience and I’m extremely grateful for the opportunity I was given.