



Internship with the Department of Defense Trey Balzen, Electrical Engineering, 2020

Professional
Development

SUMMARY

This summer I had an internship with the United States Department of Defense. I worked in the office of Installations & Logistics. This division is responsible for the design, maintenance, remodel, and demolition of all the buildings used by the Department. My typical day started with checking in with my mentors, and adapting to what needed to be done for that week's projects. These tasks included creating AutoCAD drawings, performing electrical calculations, cost estimation and making statements of work. I was also fortunate enough to tour many other offices and learn a little about how they are all reliant on each other. Finally, I attended many trainings and technical meetings that were a wellspring of knowledge and growth for me. My goals for the internship were to learn as much as I could about engineering in the working world, and learn some new skills. The internship affirmed my career goals, showed me a place I would love to work, while giving me vital and unique experience in many areas of facilities engineering.

SPICES

My internship embodied Professional Development by being a 12-week immersion in engineering. I worked on various projects both alone and with my engineering office. I gained and improved many skills during my time there and also learned about engineering and facilities.



HERBS

My internship embodied Resilience and Support. I demonstrated resilience with trying to learn new things and working on projects, especially the couple that were outside my knowledge base. I showed support with my mentors and fellow interns by assisting with various tasks.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

My internship embodied Project Management. I worked on a variety of short- and long-term projects throughout the summer, both by myself and with others. These projects included everything from creating specifications to the replacement of large sections of electrical infrastructure. I also exemplified Intellectual Dexterity in the technical trainings and assignments that I completed. Another outcome of this summer was Team/Individual Learning & Decision Making. Everyday I worked with a multidisciplinary team taking projects from the initial idea to the final product. This forced me to learn many new things and reach agreements on decisions.

IMPACT

With this internship I vastly increased my knowledge in my field. I have come to a startling understanding of all the planning and maintenance that goes into rooms, buildings, offices and even utilities. I have been enlightened to the many career paths before me and endless possibilities there. I made many new great friends and professional contacts. All while doing work that I enjoy. Overall, this fortunate opportunity that I have been given has been a wonderful experience.

ADVICE

My advice to students in an internship is to talk and interact with as many coworkers as possible. It is a fantastic way to network, learn about other opportunities available to you, and try to figure out your future goals.