

INTERN WALL of FAME



Emily Matson

Senior

Public Accountancy

Business Administration-Finance

Junior Staff Accountant

Skrobacz & Co. CPA's, PC

Williamsville, NY

Emily Matson is a senior with a double major in Public Accountancy and Business Administration with a concentration in Finance. In the spring of 2019, Emily had an internship as a Junior Staff Accountant at Skrobacz & CO. CPA's, PC in Williamsville, New York. Skrobacz was founded in 1979 and focuses on the accounting needs of small and medium-sized businesses in Western New York.

During her internship experience, Emily got a lot of hands-on, real-world experience. Emily was able to witness first-hand how a CPA firm is run during tax season, and about everything that goes into a single tax return. In her interview with the CDO, Emily noted, "this is not something you can learn from a textbook, or from hearing stories." During her internship with Skrobacz & Co, Emily learned all about the "tax side" of public accounting. Another more general career skill that Emily practiced was professionalism in the workplace. She started the internship by developing her resume with the help of the CDO and was offered the position following a professional interview. "At the firm, [Emily] was treated as a co-worker, not just someone who fetches coffee." The authentic work experience that Emily gained was also rewarding, as it would "end up making a big impact on the lives of the individuals whose taxes [she] was completing."

Emily's experience with Skrobacz & Co. gave her the opportunity to gain experience with the "tax side" of Public Accounting, but Emily felt that she should complete her education by obtaining an internship that would give her experience with the "audit side." This led her to pursue and receive an internship opportunity with Calpine, which she will be completing this summer. This was a very competitive internship, as Calpine only accepted 4 students from 4 different schools! Something that gave Emily the proverbial leg up was her professional experience she gained working at Skrobacz & Co., as well as her dedication to the profession and her education.

Emily recommends that Fredonia students pursue an internship even if it is not required for their major. She says internships provide opportunities to "get hands-on experience," and working in a close-knit office can give you a lot of professional insight through asking general career development and field specific questions. She also encourages students to apply to companies that might not necessarily perfectly match their major, "because you never know where your skills are needed." On a closing note, Emily recommends using the Career Development Offices' services "as much as possible," specifically referencing the usefulness of our resume review appointments and the internship opportunities that are listed in FREDNetwork.

In conclusion, Emily's internship experiences, and dedication to her studies and professional development has paid off. Following graduation in December, Emily will be starting in a full-time position at Skrobacz & Co. CPA's, PC!