

INTERN WALL of FAME



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My summer internship at Arbor Realty Trust in Depew has overall been the best learning experience of my life. Every day, I was faced with new tasks to take on and this always kept the internship fresh and engaging. There have been many things that I learned and a widespread array of tasks from different projects across the organization that I was a part of.

When I first joined Arbor in late May, I was a little nervous because I had never worked in a professional environment and had little knowledge on commercial mortgages and how they worked. My worries went away after my orientation on my first day of work, which consisted of a panel of department leads that explained all the various aspects of a commercial loan and the lifecycle a loan takes from start to end. One thing that I loved about Arbor is all the knowledgeable and friendly people that were always willing to give me tips, teach me something new, or just talk about my goals and career aspirations. The company really does a great job of treating the employee's right and because it is a smaller firm, all the interns were able to meet with upper level executives and talk about the company on a very personal level.

With many hours logged in at Arbor during the course of May thru August, I learned a lot. My biggest thing that I wanted to do with this internship is get my foot in the door and get to see behind the scenes of what a person in this field does and if I would enjoy this type of work. Arbor was the perfect place to experiment with this idea because of the small team size. Since it is only 8 people, the team is very tightly knit and during weekly group meetings, we all discussed our projects and the type of work we were doing. So, I was able to gain unique and applicable experience in regard to what people do in the technology field. Along with seeing some real life prospective on what people in the tech world do, I was able to learn how to operate and work in a professional environment. This was my first office job so learning to come into an office for 8 hours a day was brand new to me. The thing that took some adjusting was being given a task without direction and being expected to accomplish it however I wanted to attack it. By working at Arbor over the summer, my “people” skills increased as well as my problem-solving skills. Some more technological skills that I got to brush up on at Arbor was my understanding of SQL, being able to create swim lane/regular flow charts in Visio, mapping a cloud environment and making a business requirements document.

After my internship was over, I did not receive a job offer. However, I established many professional connections that will be crucial for finding new job opportunities and for letters of recommendation. I would highly recommend this internship to anyone in the computer science/computer information systems field. This internship allows for students to apply all the fundamentals from class into the real world and this type of connection is crucial for expanding your knowledge.

My advice to every student on the fence about an internship; do it, you won't regret it! The things that you will learn are so valuable and to be honest, they can't be taught in a class room. Not only will you learn a great deal, you will also establish many professional connections, and this will allow you have a higher chance of finding a job post-graduation. One key thing to keep in mind when trying to find an internship is to make sure your resume is top notch. Many people will be applying for the same position and spots are limited, so make yourself stand out. Put projects and any relevant work to the position you are applying to on

your resume. Also, be sure to apply everywhere. It can be annoying trying to apply to so many places but, it's better to have options as opposed to none!

Part 2

The Career Development Office was a vital resource for me when it came time to find an internship. They helped me make my resume up to date as well as show me resources where I can find internships to apply to. I would highly recommend any student to stop in the CDO, they have a lot of insight and knowledge on the application process, interviewing, and resume building. The CDO played a major role in the whole lifecycle of trying to find an internship, and without their guidance and knowledge to steer me in the right direction, I wouldn't have found my internship. This is why I highly recommend every student to stop into the CDO, at least once, to brush up on their resume as well as get tips and pointers for interviewing and applying to internships.