

## **CAF Summer Interns Tell All 2011**

**(Reynolds High School and The Center for Advanced Learning)**

Below are testimonials from CAF Summer Interns change that are sure to change student's lives forever. These statements are taken from reflections written by each summer intern regarding their internship experiences. It is truly worth your time to envelope yourself in these student's new perspectives of the business world.

- **This internship really helped me develop better time management skills, independence and problem solving skills.** I was also able to get professional work experience and learn many new skills I can apply to any job I get in the future.

*Marie Pardo-Garber, Columbia Corridor*

- This experience was nothing like I expected. Everyone I met was really helpful, and I am thankful to all of them. **I got to see, up- close, how a local government runs and even got to meet the Mayor of Fairview.**

*Laura Doroteo, City of Fairview*

- This job showed that I need self-management to get jobs done on time and correctly. I learned that teamwork is vital in the workplace. In the workplace here there are many, many different ethnic backgrounds represented and it was very interesting to talk to and learn from people with different ethnicities than my own. **Here I learned that you can take a situation that may not look appealing, and with a good attitude, can turn it into a good experience that could have turned out the opposite.**

*Sam Paris, The Sheraton Portland Airport*

- **I can truly say that it was the best internship I've ever had yet!** Throughout my stay, strong teamwork was evident. Everyone was in symmetry. Working with people of different backgrounds helped me to understand, appreciate and accept them much more than with just an outside perspective. I especially appreciate how everyone was so nice; the whole staff was like a family. This was a great learning experience for me, and a good way to spend two weeks of my summer (I wish I could stay longer!). **The Sheraton is a beautiful hotel and I hope that it is doubly pleasing for you to know that I was so impressed that I took home a job application on my first day working there!**

*Paris Norris, The Sheraton Portland Airport*

- **I would highly recommend this experience to others!** I learned a lot from this experience and I was able to learn how to work with Microsoft Outlook and how you upload a website from Macromedia Dream Weaver 8. I was also able to experience working in an actual office atmosphere. I learned how to act more responsible and have a better sense of self-management. I had to be able to make myself work hard and fast while still being efficient at what I was doing. This also meant that I needed to know when I reached my limits and needed to ask for help with figuring out a problem.

*Jordan Robertson, Columbia Corridor*

- I am very glad and thankful that I had the opportunity to intern because I learned a lot. There was so much to learn in just 14 days. This internship had a big affect on my plans for a career in the hospitality industry. **Even though I do not think hotel management is my thing, I found the tour of the facility and the career related information you shared to be extremely valuable.**

*Vivian Phan, Comfort Inn and Suites*

- **I learned a variety of different things such as organization, but most importantly, I learned how to be more efficient and what it was like to work in a job environment. I would say the**

**overall experience was excellent and I find the information I obtained to be extremely valuable.** I was definitely able to use skills from the CAF courses on the job. Using different programs on the job was second nature thanks to all that I have learned in my computer application classes. I also typed over 50 pages of documents with ease thanks to the skills I acquired from my keyboarding class.

*Nicholas Jay, City of Fairview*

- **I know that this experience has set me further in life, and that it has helped narrow my career pathway.** Being in a community environment like a credit union, my communication skills advanced greatly from working with many different people. I now know that my career goals will be more directed at working with the community. I specifically will never forget all the careful processes and security of working at a credit union. It amazed me how detailed each procedure has to be.

*Sadie Smith, Oregon First Community First Credit Union*

- **The internship was an amazing experience. Learning and experiencing the hospitality industry has definitely opened up options for me down the road.** I learned that being in the hospitality industry, you have to be really organized and responsible. A small mistake can really slow things down which can affect the business especially during their busiest days. Communication is without a doubt an important piece of this business. I learned that people from different areas come to hotels and some will disappoint you with their attitude, but having the patience to deal with them is beneficial.

*Adrian Acedo, Comfort Inn and Suites*

- **The information that you have shared with me has helped me realize my career goals and the kind of company I would like to work for someday.** The time that I spent at the Portland Visitors Information Center really showed me the diversity of people that are in Portland. During my week at the VIC, I met people from India, China and the Netherlands! Through this internship, I learned a lot about the travel industry career field as well as the many things that Travel Portland does. I especially enjoyed attending the staff meetings.

*Karby Morris, Travel Portland*

- **From this internship I learned to do more than what is told, but at the same time to do what is expected. I also learned communication is a huge key to any successful group/business.** Overall my internship with Integra Telecom was amazing, and a huge benefit. I have never experienced anything like it. I never would have expected to take as much away from this experience as I did. **Besides the many new skills, and great acquaintances, I will also be taking away from this experience a myriad of outstanding memories, I will never forget.**

*Ryan Baldwin, Integra Telecom*

- I learned how loans and mortgages are processed or denied, the importance of all the people in the back office, how marketing always needs to get creative with promoting the credit union, how tellers complete member transactions and how they deal with the occasional angry member. **Before going into the internship I thought I had changed my career pathway to be a doctor or surgical nurse, but this internship was so amazing and insightful, that it reminded me how much I loved the business world.** Now I will continue my journey to finish high school, then on to college where I will study business and start a career in a financial institution.

*Marissa Lemus-Brown, Oregonians Credit Union*

- **This experience has given me a new perspective on the hospitality industry and will definitely help me make my career choice in the future.** The people I worked with in my internship were both generous and helpful to me. I couldn't believe how excited everyone was that I was there; I couldn't have felt more welcome. **While on the job I learned a tremendous amount of**

**information, something new each day!** Being able to work in all the different departments of the hotel industry was much more informative rather than reading from a textbook.

*Joshua Keim, Aloft hotel and Sheraton Portland Airport*

- **The overall experience was useful, worthwhile, and even fun.** I had the opportunity to learn and experience how a business functions, how employees work together and how projects are carried out. **Being so heavily involved in HR, it did alter my thoughts about what career I might pick in the future.** The recruitment side of HR is very appealing to me, but the rest of the career (payroll, benefits) does not seem to fit me and my goals. Marketing also caught my attention. **And now, I am also looking into IT, which I had never quite thought about before. It was an opportunity that I am so grateful for.**

*Ruth Crisan, Integra Telecom*

- **I now see how overwhelming everything in business can be, but also how valuable this new learning experience was.** I liked how I got to talk to everyone in each branch and how they set their own career goals and told us about them. All this makes me see how I can enter the financial world. I really like how we were put in the MSC and got to hear about everyone's problems and how hard it can be to deal with people. **Thanks for answering the questions I had as it was the best educational experience I've had through my high school career.**

*Fernando Arias, Oregonians Credit Union*

- **This was a wonderful experience and I am glad to have had the opportunity. After doing this internship at OFCU, I would consider working in the IT department of a credit union because I had such a good time and found it so interesting.** I learned a lot about credit unions and how they are different from banks. I learned that most of the departments OFCU have multiple employees and they all have to work together so everything can get accomplished. Since I took the computer science class last year at Reynolds High School, I was able to use some of the skills I learned during the internship when using a computer.

*Teal Dubcet, Oregonian Credit Union*

- **If I was ever given the chance to come back to intern or work for Fairview City Hall, I would definitely take the chance without hesitation. Two big lessons that I have learned and reflected on while being at the Fairview City Hall are that you can never truly understand or appreciate something until you actually experience it yourself, and that you just need to get involved with your community as much as you can because there is so much more that goes on than what you think.** I was able to work on a special project regarding a new website for the City of Fairview that was scheduled to launch on September 1<sup>st</sup>. I learned a lot about work ethics, teamwork and customer service. I also learned that government oriented jobs are striving to reach out to many people, but due to many misconceptions and hasty judgement, many people tend to ignore or neglect such jobs. What Fairview City Hall wants is to reach out and educate the younger generation, because it will be them who will go on to lead the community.

*Jalianne Nguyen, City of Fairview*

- **Thank you for providing an amazing educational internship! I found many interesting and important things that I learned that will help me in my school as well as my future.** At first my challenge was making phone calls and communicating with clients on the phone, but later I felt comfortable practicing my communication skills everyday and I did enjoy it a lot.

*Charity Phillip, Maid Brigade*

- **I would judge this experience as a 10 out of 10.** All of my supervisors were attentive and responsive to my questions. It was a great experience to work in with Westside Secretarial Services and develop a website for an established and respected company like the Credit Association. For

general purposes, I learned that clarity and politeness are very important when working with clients. For IT purposes, I also learned about ftp servers, php script, form mailing, php-mailing and many other skills that will undoubtedly be handy in my future study of web design. **The chance to work in a real office setting was very helpful to me, and the opportunity to put into practice what I had learned in my computer science classes at school has given me added confidence that a career in IT would be a good fit for me.** I am grateful to CAF and Mary Ann Gray and her staff for this opportunity.

*Tim Berry, Westside Secretarial Services, The Credit Association of the Pacific Northwest*

- **I would definitely recommend the internship experience that you have provided me to any of my friends. I was able to use the skills I learned in my Introduction to Information Technology class at The Center for Advanced Learning, particularly the Unix commands that were taught in that curriculum.** The work and job shadowing that I did around the credit union gave me a valuable look at the way that businesses are run and how I will be expected to perform in a professional setting. I had an excellent time getting to know everyone, learning about their jobs, and helping them do day-to-day tasks that help the business stay afloat. I especially appreciated the conversations I had with my IT supervisor that broadened my knowledge and understanding of the information technology world.

*Morgan Shirley, IBEW & United Workers FCU*

- **If I could, I would do it again!** It was a great learning experience for me to become accustomed to the vibe of having a job. It is amazing to know that every major department of a company could fit into one building. **The experience helped me grow more as a person and build my independents as I become an adult.** Thank you all for teaching me all of the financial work as well as everything else you have taught me.

*Justin Sheets, Leatherman Tool*

- **Honestly, I would say that my internship has changed my opinion about careers in hospitality industries. I just wish it could have been longer. I found the time I spent at the Sheraton to be very valuable; I made new friends while gaining much knowledge about how the IT departments works.** Teamwork is important in almost every job and I learned that the IT department helps by maintaining smooth communication throughout the hotels by working to fix technical problems as well to improve technology. I learned a lot about employees with diverse backgrounds and was told stories about how they got to where they are now and some of the hardships they had to go through-it make me understand how diversity is something important and should be embraced by the community.

*Jennifer Lee, Sheraton Portland Airport*

- **I thank all the IBEW staff for the enriching experience! I found that visiting and learning about each department helped me experience different types of career pathways.** Being around the accountants was especially helpful for me so that I could get some experience and information about my main career pathway. **My knowledge from my Business Management class really helped me understand what the staff were talking about when they were teaching me about their jobs.**

*Santiago Chavira, IBEW United Workers FCU*

- **Having an internship at Best Western Plus in Troutdale opened my eyes for the future. It showed me that I want a future in hotel management.** Something I knew, but did not fully understand is that the hotel business never closes. It is open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year. While completing a task I always remembered what I was taught in my business class in high school. **I was taught that even if I did not exactly like the assignment I was given, I should do it anyway because in the long run I am making someone else's job easier. My**

**overall internship was amazing and I enjoyed it tremendously!** This experience is something I will carry with me for the rest of my life. **It was an experience that I was proud to be a part of and sad to leave.**

*Mila Cherchenko, Best Western Plus, Troutdale*

- **The overall experience was enlightening and invaluable, and I am extremely thankful. For me this opportunity has opened up a new perspective on life.** During high school I have wanted to be a policeman, an accountant, a drug counselor, and an entrepreneur. After this job opportunity, I am pretty sure that I want to work in an office environment. I never knew that so much knowledge was needed to perform the teller work. **Before this job I thought I liked to work with money. Now I can officially affirm that I love to work with money. The Cascade Academy Foundation has allowed me to get an early head start on my career pathway.** I would recommend this program to any high school in the U.S.

*Zack Lees, Northwest Pacific Credit Union*

- **This internship opened my eyes to the financial world and made me more aware of the various jobs that are available in financial institutions. It made me want to get started on saving and becoming more financially stable. My two-week internship at Oregonians Credit Union was a fantastic learning experience.** Not only did I get a glimpse of the working world and having a 9-5 job, but I also learned about the financial side of things. I am especially grateful to Oregonians Credit Union for allowing me to participate in the internship as well as keep my job at Gap and play baseball.

*Scott Weidlich, Oregonians Credit Union*

- **My first day at Multnomah County Commissioner's Office, and I knew that this was exactly what I didn't want.** Being crammed against a small gray cubicle, staring at the brightly lit screen for six hours, and sitting next to strangers that I had never met before told me, that I was about to waste a part of my precious summer. I guess in a sense, I was expecting this Hollywood professionalism in the air. **I realize now that the things I learned at the county, my daily responsibilities, and the places that we visited all have allowed me to view myself from a new angle and have shown me that the future holds many opportunities.**

**I honestly mean this when I say, this was the most educational and interesting internship ever.** I'm so glad to have gotten this chance to understand where I want to go next and gotten to know the commissioner's at a more personal level. **I have also decided that since I enjoyed my time there so much, I would like to hopefully do an internship in Senator Wyden's office in Washington D.C next year.**

*Samar Kaur, Multnomah County Commissioner's Office, Diane McKeel*

- **I would highly recommend students to apply for an internship, it will open your eyes to whether or not a certain field will or will not work for you. In my case it did. I'm very grateful for the two weeks that I was given because now I'm planning on shaping my education so that being an accountant could be a career path I take.**

*Edward Koba, KS & Co.*

- **I learned many things through this internship and what it's like to work full-time and in the financial/business field. I learned responsibility and self-management as there was always a lot to do and I never wanted to leave something unfinished. Overall, I would recommend to everybody to do an internship because it helps you gain experience for future jobs and it also helps you figure out what you really want to do in the future.**

*Logan Rust, Leatherman Tool Group*

