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The SD Difference

INTERNSHIP

BY JACOB KATZ

Entering into the IT Audit Internship, I didn't really know what to expect. As with anything that is new and unknown, I walked into Schneider Downs my first day with my head held high and an eagerness to learn. I was welcomed into the firm with open arms from leaders and mentors, like Dan Desko and William Deller, that were anxious to get to know me and teach me valuable skills that would guide me during my ten-week program. From the moment I began my internship, I was immersed in valuable situations that helped me build upon the skills I brought from my undergraduate classes and experiences. I was given the opportunity to travel to Boston, a situation that not many interns get, and met with a new client that we began building a relationship that will last for years to come. Each week I was given a project to work on and a mentor to confide in if I had any questions or concerns. Schneider Downs is very easily distinguishable from other firms in Pittsburgh; I never once felt like the typical under-utilized intern that many students become in other large organizations.

An internship is a vital part of one's undergraduate career, and I can confidently say that Schneider Downs has guided me in a way that has allowed me to gain skills that I would not be able to gain inside a classroom. Skills such as communication, comprehension and independence can all be defined in a classroom setting, but when you put them into practice in the real world, they have a whole new meaning. This internship in the IT Audit department not only helped me solidify what I want my future career path to be, but also allowed me to make meaningful connections with those in my department and more. Schneider Downs is more than just an accounting firm; it is a group of friends, mentors, and scholarly individuals that push you to be the best you can be.

One connection in your personal life can lead to 10 in the professional world, all leading to paths that would have never been discovered otherwise. Without many of my connections and hard work from Duquesne University, I would not be in the internship that I am today; I am more than thankful for those who have sparked my interest in the IT Audit world. Entering something new and unknown can be a scary thing. I am grateful for interning with a company that makes the process so abundantly welcoming and insightful.

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