

To Future Leaders of Industry;

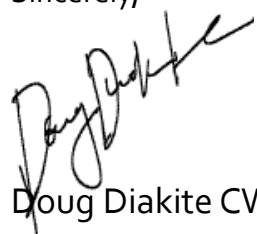
I worked as a Branch Operator for College Works Painting in 2004 during my junior year at UC Santa Barbara. I knew nothing about painting and I definitely had no experience running my own business. So I realized going in, that the program would be extremely challenging as well great opportunity for me to learn new skills and develop myself. My experience definitely turned out to be all of those things, but what happened that first year that I didn't expect, was that I met and became friends with so many wonderful people who shared similar aspirations and goals. Some of those people I met are still close friends of mine to this day. Johnny Rhee, the VP of the division and Jane Kim, my former DM and now the VP of Arizona was instrumental in my success.

I was hired back the following two years to work as a District Manager. During those two years I was able to take what I had learned my first year, and train a team of interns, that I recruited, how to run their own businesses. Working with all the different personality types and finding ways to motivate them and lead them to success was a great opportunity to build on the experience I had gained my first year. The experience was constantly difficult and challenging for me. It required a lot of hard work, commitment, and sacrifice, and it made me really push myself as well as discover what I am capable of. Individuals who do well in this program all share the will power and drive to continue working hard when things get tough. And anyone who runs their own business can tell you that being in business for yourself definitely involves tough times.

Now, with my experience from CWP, I am instrumental to my father's business, Le Petit Metals. Since CWP, I have been able to expand a family business of 2 decades over 50% in a short 18 months. I have also found having strong ties to my former mentors in CWP beneficial as have I have called Johnny Rhee a number times for advice regarding my father's business.

Lastly, I would like to say that successful entrepreneurs will also tell you that when you run your own business, the possibilities are endless and the earning potential is limited only by how hard you're willing to work. You truly will get out of your business what you put into it.

Sincerely,



Doug Diakite CWP 2004-2006