

As someone who has always been interested in entrepreneurship, I can not imagine a more perfect internship. When I joined College Works Painting as a branch manager, past managers told me it would be the most difficult program I would ever undertake. At the time, I only half-believed what they said, but I was never one to shy away from a challenge.

For someone who wants a laid-back, show-up-and-look-busy summer job, College Works is NOT it. As a branch manager, one is the business owner with all of the perks and challenges. One has the flexibility of setting his own scheduling, but he must also be prepared to work 15-hour days if that is what it is going to take for his business to be succeed. One must go into the program with an entrepreneurial mindset, knowing that it will not be easy. Some think CWP places unreasonable expectations on the students who participate, but just because it is too hard for some, does not mean that for the right candidates, it is not an amazing opportunity. If one is disciplined and determined and follows the guidance of the extremely well-qualified mentors, it is entirely possible to achieve great success in operating a house-painting business without sacrificing academic grades and a social life. This fact is proven time and time again as generations of College Works managers realize the awesome opportunities and freedoms the manager position offers students that they would not be able to find in another internship.

While my tenure as branch manager was not without its share of challenges, the insanely busy schedule and occasional stressful situation was well-worth it when I see all that I gained. Through CWP, I was forced to challenge myself to achieve a level of success I would not have attempted on my own and had the opportunity to learn and practice real-world business skills that will serve me throughout my career.

The program did, indeed, prove to be one of the most difficult things I have ever done, but the value of the experience I gained outweighs anything I will ever learn in the classroom. I grew so much as an individual and as a leader during my summer as a manager, and I developed a clearer vision for my own career goals. Whereas before I felt I wanted to be my own boss, I now see that I will be unfulfilled in any job that does not allow me the liberties of an entrepreneur.
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