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I had a very valuable experience during my time with College Works Painting in the summer of 2005. CWP gave me a unique opportunity to run my own business at the age of 19. It was a challenging summer full of excitement, personal growth, and most of all, fun. Everyday was an opportunity to show that even though I was young I was able to handle the full responsibilities of running a small business. I was able to interact with customers, manage my very own employees, and learn vital communication, sales, and marketing skills. Currently as a senior at Boston College I have been interviewing for various full time positions for after graduation. One of the most important lessons that I have learned through interviewing is that you must be able to sell yourself to a prospective employer using examples of strong work experience and leadership situations. With CWP not only was I able to learn sales and communication skills, but I also had a whole summer filled with examples of leadership. Time after time, interviewers were both impressed and intrigued about the program, constantly wanting to know more.

Aside from the personal growth and valuable skills I acquired throughout the summer, I was also able to make some great friends. Starting with my mentor, I had someone that I felt comfortable coming to with whatever questions I had. Quickly I became acquainted with the other CWP interns through trainings and payroll Fridays. These people become friends and support systems throughout the summer. They were people that I could share my experience with and who have become life long friends.

In conclusion, CWP gave me a chance to do something above and beyond what my peers were doing for summer jobs. It also let me prove to myself that I was capable of rising to any challenge that I was confronted with. These situations have given me confidence and skills that I will take with me and apply to my personal and professional life beyond graduation.

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