

## My experience with CWP

My name is Cameron Young, and I was a branch manager for College Works Painting of Michigan during the summer of 2006. This internship for me was one of great challenges, but also of great successes. It truly is an all encompassing experience, the success of your business is totally dependent on you, and you are in charge of every aspect of your business. The key to a successful summer starts out with hiring the right people to paint for you. I feel like this is the most important part of the internship; you really have to locate and be able to discern if someone will be a hard worker and show up every day. Your business is only as good as your employees.

A funny story of some of my shortcomings in this area occurred in the later part of the summer, at a house in Grand Rapids. I hired a couple buddies of mine to paint for me, which ended up not being the greatest idea, as two of these friends were lazy and a little complacent, while the other was a great worker and a major reason why I had success last summer. One of the lazy painters was painting a front pillar on the porch of this house, and was moving his 8 ft step ladder to reach a different part of the porch trim, which he did without first removing the nearly full gallon of paint from the top of the ladder. Needless to say, the paint spilled and nearly a gallon of gray (thank god not blue or something darker) spilled all over the concrete sidewalk in front of this house. I grabbed the hose and we soaked this down for the next two hours and averted this paint into a nearby drain. The homeowner actually walked out in the middle of this, looked at us and her sidewalk and grass covered in paint, said "Oh," and proceeded to get in her car and drive away. Thankfully, she trusted me to the point where she knew I would get this little fiasco cleaned up. I was able to fix this crisis, but it speaks to the fact that if you have inferior employees, you will be running a, at least in part, inferior business.

I had a great summer with CWP, the people involved in it are some of the most focused, creative, fun people I've ever been around, and I know that this experience will benefit me greatly in the future.

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