

September 4, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Michael Harding and I have just recently finished my internship with College Works Painting. I got into the position during my freshman year at Penn State University while sitting in my economics class. A guy named Zack Matush, who later became my district manager, introduced the internship during class one fall day and soon after I was contacted to receive more information. I was fortunate to have Zack as my manager because I could tell from the start that he was great at what he did. He stood out from the other district managers and truly has a lot to offer anyone that should get to know him. Throughout the year, I had a lot of ups and downs, and quitting crossed my mind quite often. I had times of incredible stress, where I thought I would never be able to get the job off my mind, spending many nights unable to fall asleep as I went over all the things I had to do in my head. I had a couple difficult times with customers and my employment that I thought would end my summer right there, but I was able to be consoled by my support system and knew that it would all be alright in the end. I say support system for a reason. While Zack was always just a phone call away, I also had several other managers and interns that I could call for advice. College Works slowly became a family environment, where you could talk to each other about your good times and bad times, knowing that the person you're talking to actually cares and understands what you are going through. My experience wasn't as great as it could have been, most likely due to the fact that the town in which I lived was not an area in need of much painting, therefore causing me to travel a good distance to reach my jobsites. This resulted in long days that really gave me the true meaning of hard work. The structure of the program really was pretty great. I learned many aspects of the business world from a hands on perspective, first with the help of a district manager, and then on my own. I gained confidence in my ability to do things, and actually have been told by a few people that I carry myself in a more secure manner than I used to. While my social life was hurting toward the beginning of the program, by the end of the summer I was able to balance my work and my fun pretty well and no longer sat awake at night worrying about things I had to do. While there probably were a couple times along the way that I would have been better off just quitting, I am now glad that I didn't because I was able to gain respect for myself and learn more than most guys my age don't learn until much later in life. All in all, if you're willing to put in a ton of hard work and time, College Works will repay you with a family oriented business lesson that will have a great impact on your life.