Ones to Watch
People in the News

Andersen Corp.'s Youngest Intern Gains Valuable Experience

Emory Luth, a 19-year old college student, recently concluded his second summer internship with Andersen Corp. in Bayport, Minn. He entered into the program immediately after his freshman year in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Illinois, and at the age of 18 at the start of two consecutive internships, was the youngest intern in the company's 103-year history.

Luth gained a valuable experience during the summer programs.

"Throughout my two summers at Andersen I gained a vast wealth of knowledge ranging from software programming to machine design … The quality experiences that I have had at Andersen will put me leaps and bounds ahead of peers at school and in my career," said Luth.

Gerard Lagos, a materials and technology development engineer at Andersen Corp., worked closely with Luth and explained why he was able to participate in the program at a young age. According to Luth, his fellow interns were 21 years old. His high school industrial technology/WoodLINKS USA teacher at Shiloh High School, Mark Smith, said he thought Luth obtained the internship on his own initiative .

"Emory was a very unique case for an Andersen intern. You could say he slipped in, but the truth is he did not let his age be a deciding criteria for being hired. He instead focused on his match with Andersen. We could tell in the interview that he was a good fit for the program. He was poised, very confident and obviously prepared," said Lagos.

Luth said that he worked in supplier technology development during summer 2005 commercializing two products that were launched in early 2006.

"I supported an international task force while working abroad, worked on cross functional teams developing design of experiments for several projects, and enjoyed the excellent network of talented professionals and mentors at Andersen."

Lagos expanded on Luth's progress while at the company.

"He was immersed in a real project with real budgets and deadlines his first day. The project continued throughout his first summer. His high energy level, pragmatism and creativity was a great combination and made it clear he would be successful the following year," said Lagos.

During his second summer 2006, he worked in corporate product evaluation services. He worked with product testing

group, in addition to other tasks he led a development project for new test equipment. The design was reviewed and approved by management.

Andersen Corp. takes approximately 40 students in its paid internship program every year. The main objective of the internship program is to give talented students real world corporate experience to enhance their studies.

The program was challenging and fulfilling for the students.

"I particularly like the extra activities that are established for the interns. I truly enjoyed the intern Habitat for Humanity build. I especially enjoyed the first intern exchange where we were able to meet interns from other companies within the Twin Cities," Luth said.

With two summer's worth of work experience, Luth is laying the ground work for success in the future.

"There are many talented interns at Andersen each year. I enjoyed working with (Luth) and think he would be an asset to Andersen when he finishes school," said Lagos.

What is next for the 19-year old?

"I look forward to the opportunity to grow with Andersen in the future and can definitely envision myself continuing my career with Andersen upon graduation in May 2008," he said.

WoodLINKS USA is a wood products manufacturing course designed to prepare students for entry-level skills into the wood products industry or admission into a one-, two- or four-year wood products college degree program in United States or Canada.

Manufacturers interested in hiring students for internships can contact Mark Smith at marks@shiloh.k12.il.us.