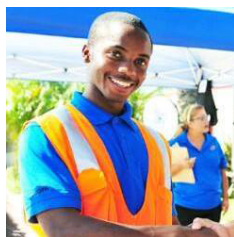


Telling our EOP Stories

March 2014



Choosing The Right Path by Nayeli Flores

Ryan Pugh is a fourth year student majoring in Mechanical Engineering. He was born and raised in Los Angeles where he was the third child out of four to attend a university. Ryan decided to attend Fresno State partly due to the low cost of living compared to other universities but also because he wanted to move away from southern California.

Entering Fresno State, Ryan was indecisive about the career choice he wanted to pursue. He understood that choosing a major and career path was not going to be easy and began to explore possible options early on. As moved through his major and career exploration, Ryan considered different fields such as business, teaching and psychology. However, the Engineering field truly captivated his interest and he finally declared Mechanical Engineering as his major during his second year.

Ryan is a highly pro-active student and plans for the future. Anticipating his upcoming graduation and entrance into the workforce, Ryan wanted to expand his experiences and network. Ryan understood the importance of not only building a professional resume, but also gaining experiences so that he can build up a network of companies and individuals within his field of study. He searched diligently for internship opportunities within the engineering field and attended every internship and job fair that was held at Fresno State.

It was at one of these events where he met a representative from Dow Chemical, a company based out of Hahnville, Louisiana. He went through a rigorous application and interview process and was selected to intern for Dow Chemical for the summer of 2013. Ryan spent three months in Louisiana with Dow Chemical where he was in charge of maintaining and updating the online systems. At the same time he was gaining valuable field experience, Ryan was able to also explore Louisiana and soak in the diversity and culture.

Ryan did not stop his internship experience with Dow Chemical. His persistence paid off again and he received another internship opportunity with the Toyota Company in Long Beach, California. Toyota offered him a semester long internship experience which he gladly accepted. As a Toyota Intern, Ryan was in charge of putting small and large vehicle parts together through the use of industrial equipment. His Toyota internship experience provided valuable hands-on experience and validated his decision to pursue the Engineering field.

Ryan never imagined that he would receive the opportunity to work with nationally recognized companies. He is currently in the process of securing another summer internship with Chevron and emphasized the importance of applying for internship opportunities in advance. Ryan shared that his internships with the Dow Chemical company and Toyota has both challenged him and helped him to “step out into my career and see what my future would be like.” He encourages all students to participate in any internship experience if given the opportunity.

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
California State University, Fresno
5150 N. Maple Ave
Fresno, CA 93740

Call: 559.278.1787
Visit: www.fresnostate.edu/eop