2017 SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROJECT

CITY OF PALM BEACH GARDENS

THE MISSION

The mission for the City of Palm Beach Gardens Internship Program is to create long-term benefits for the participating departments and interns. The departments receive the opportunity to work on special projects they are unable to act upon, due to time and budgeting constraints. For the interns, this program offers hands-on experience with the usage of practical applications that are in place to educate them on the various aspects of City administration. In addition, the interns become better equipped at making decisions, which will benefit them in their profession and educational careers.

Our mission is to provide internships that enhance the educational objectives of the student, strengthen their career awareness, and promote public service for the City of Palm Beach Gardens.

PARTNERING WITH THE COMMUNITY

PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

This summer, the City of Palm Beach Gardens formed an alliance with Palm Beach State College to create the City's first internship program. The purpose of the program was to get students involved within the community while giving them hands on experience in their related career path.

After careful planning and various meetings with Dr. Holly Bennett, Palm Beach States Provost and Oleg Andric, Associate Professor of Electrical Power Technology, the first internship to launch was for the Engineering Division. The main goal of this internship was the Campus Drive Project, which involved strategically developing a solution to help elevate traffic at the intersection of Campus Drive and Fairchild Avenue, which is a main intersection located next to Palm Beach State College.

The next internship was for the Information Technology Department (IT). The purpose of this internship was to give the intern a broad overview of what IT does, in a government setting.

SELECTING THE RIGHT INTERN

WHY SHOULD WE CHOOSE YOU?

To select the best candidate for each departments internship, we conducted panel interviews. This allowed students to experience what interviews in a professional environment would be like and how to prepare them for future job interviews.

WELCOME ABOARD

INTRODUCING . . .

Darren Ross was selected for our Engineering Internship. Darren is a full-time student at Palm Beach State College. He is currently working towards his Associate's degree in Engineering Technology at Palm Beach State College and will be transferring to another college to obtain his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering.

Tyler Freece was selected for our Information Technology Internship. Tyler is currently a part time student at Palm Beach State College. He is working towards obtaining a Bachelors in Science and Information Technology Forensics. Tyler plans on becoming a Cyber Security Software Engineer.

THE EXPERIENCE: ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, MORE THAN JUST DESIGN

For Darren, the Engineering Division has been about more than just design. He has been involved in numerous projects. He shadowed the development of the City's Golf Courses new and upcoming training center, which features a simulation center allowing players to improve their skills. He has had the opportunity to observe and review the plans of Shady Lakes road rebuilding project. He has gained exposure to infrastructure inspections, learning how to conduct them, as well as, what needs to be done to accomplish inspections.

"This experience has helped me confirm that I want to become a Civil Engineer."

In the Campus Drive project, Darren has been able to apply what he's learned in class by using AutoCAD to graph and design plans. AutoCAD is a computer-aided drafting software application which is used in architecture, construction, and manufacturing to assist in the preparation of blueprints and other engineering plans.

Darren Ross working on blueprints.

We asked Darren what benefits has the City's internship offered. Darren's response was, "Seeing how the Engineering Department [Division] functions from a government standpoint has given me a real-world experience. Just from being able to apply AutoCAD to real on the job experience to being out in the field, seeing how projects begin, how they are routed through the permitting process to then being completed, I have been able to network with people both inside and outside the City. This experience has helped me confirm that I want to become a Civil Engineer."

THE EXPERIENCE: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

THE WORLD OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

For Tyler, the Information Technology department has given him an overview of how technology works and is used in a government setting. He has been able to see how technology functions on the go by riding along in the City's police and fire vehicles. Tyler has been involved in numerous projects which

include changing out hardware, installing software and operating systems, and assisting with technical support such as troubleshooting and diagnostic repairs.

"This internship has given me exposure to active work and hands on experience in the IT field."

One of Tyler's major projects was assisting with the distribution, maintenance, and disposal of the City's computer equipment. Tyler has been able to apply applications and network based information he's learned in class towards many of the projects he has worked on.

Tyler Freece, troubleshooting software.

We asked Tyler what benefits has the City's internship offered. Tyler's response was, "Seeing Information Technology in the government field has offered me more insight on how the process of inputting and retrieving data through the City operates. This internship has given me exposure to active work and hands on experience in the IT field. My experience interning with the City has been great."

THE GRAND FINALE

Both Darren and Tyler's internship programs exposed them to the hands-on experience in their related fields. They worked on projects that complimented educational learning objectives in courses they completed through Palm Beach State College.

Tyler's internship helped him understand the actual process that takes place in the IT Department and the numerous projects they deal with daily such as, solving technical issues on employee computers, making sure the City's inventory matched and learning the importance of how to properly handle and dispose of the City's computer equipment.

Darren's internship exposed him to the actual process that takes place in the Engineering Department and the numerous steps that happen before, during and after construction. "I have learned just because the plans that are given show it can work doesn't mean it will work in real life...it takes a lot of paper work to even begin a project, and each component is crucial for progression."

The City would like to thank both Darren and Tyler for choosing the City of Palm Beach Gardens for their internship opportunity. We hope this experience will help further them in the degree they are working towards accomplishing.

For more information or internship requests, please contact:

Alana Ramai, Human Resources Coordinator
Phone: (561) 799-4206 or aramai@pbgfl.com