

Cover Page

My name is Mark Ross, the internship that I interned for was through the Environmental Protection Agency dealing specifically through the Air Division and working with the project DERA (Diesel emissions reduction act). My mentor that I worked closely with was Francisco Donez who works with the EPA Air Division; the internship was a 13 week program and ended in June 2015. At the time of my internship I was attending the University of Cal Poly Pomona and my student advisor was Angel Valdez. This report is submitted on July 26th 2015.

Acknowledgments

When I was attending Cal Poly Pomona we were required to take a internship course and at the time I didn't know who I wanted to intern for. I went to my student advisor Cynthia Anderson and I asked her if she knew of any internship that were available, she told me about this internship through the Environmental Protection Agency. Without the direction of my student advisor I would have never knew about this internship and I'm grateful for her giving me acknowledgment of this internship program. I also wanted to acknowledge that "This project was made possible through the 2013 Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX and the California State University." I truly want to thank everybody that was involved making this possible and I want to thank my mentor Francisco Donez for teaching me and introducing me to the team that I worked closely with throughout the internship.

Executive summary

I interned for the Environmental protection agency and worked closely with Francisco Donez which was my mentor. I interned on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9am to 12:30 pm. I was asked to do multiple task, such as listen in on team meeting conference calls that were required every Tuesday to follow up on new progress that was happening with the Diesel Emission Reduction Act and the program West Coast Collaborative that we dealt with. Other task that I did during my internship was attending webinars, I created a monthly Newsletter that goes out every month to show the progress that the department was making and new upcoming events that were important to attend. I also proof read and made correction on documents before they were sent out. My mentor Francisco Donez also gave me reading assignments to make sure that I was updated with everything that was going on with the department that I worked for which was to reduce diesel emissions with nearby port sector, marine vessels, locomotive, construction, and transportation. The project that I worked closely with was involved in reducing diesel emissions to reduce the pollution in our environment and also to reduce pollutant exposure to the public health of nearby communities.

Project Objectives

The objective of the internship was made clear during the time of the phone interview. During this time my mentor made it clear that the internship had no field work that was related to this internship, but instead was all going to be based on computer and communication through the phone. I was told that we would be working with a program West Coast Collaborative which was a program that worked on reducing diesel emissions. I also was informed that I would have to help with setting and listen in on webinars that were ran through the Environmental Protection Agency. Throughout the internship due dates and task were always alternating so you needed to be prepared to make adjustment to those changes. Overall the project objective stayed the same and the only changes that were made were the due dates.

Project Approach

When I first started the internship I never knew what a webinar was and I have never been involved in a conference call. The project objectives were all completed by listening very clearly what my mentor assigned to me and if any additional help was required my mentor was there to clarify any issues. During the internship even though there was no field work that was required, I adapted very well with working on any task that was assigned to me.

Project outcomes

When I first signed up for the internship through the Environmental Protection Agency I didn't know what to expect since I never had experience in this line that was assigned to me. As tasks followed a started to adapt very quickly to the assignments that my mentor assigned to me and I started to really enjoy the work that was being assigned. The internship gave me an opportunity to see the process on how the EPA Agency is ran and how grants are passed. The internship didn't just help me learn skills that are applied to my degree which is Environmental Biology, but it also helped me broaden my skills in Networking with people, working with email marketing programs and strengthen my ability to adapt to changing due dates. I never thought that I would take an internship that didn't have any fieldwork that was involved, but I'm glad I did because it was a great experience that showed me what other jobs that are out there for my major.

Conclusion

Overall this internship has inspired me to further my education and move on to a master degree in Public Health and become an Environmental Health Specialist. the reason is that this internship has shown me that it's not just people on the field that help make changes, but there also need for people to look at the broader picture and create regulations so that recurrence of the same problems don't occur. This program has

been a great experience that allowed me to not only learn new abilities and strengthen skills within my degree, but it also gave me the opportunity to work with great people that showed me how the Agency is ran. I just wanted to thank the internship program once again for giving me the opportunity to work with the Environmental Protection Agency.

