

Brandon's Rants - Misc. Writing Piece

Internship or what I like to call; being a fake adult

As you may have seen on my webpage, my resume, or on any social media platform I use; in May 2017 I was fortunate enough to take on a 16 month internship. The internship was everything I could have asked for. It gave me an opportunity to take a break from school, make some valuable income (which will ironically go to school debt) and be at home with my family rather than living near campus. During this I learned quite a bit about myself, about industry and what it is like to be immersed in the full-time job lifestyle. All of this, I am about to share with you.

So before I can mention anything that may be of value to my readers I just have to say this. Having the opportunity to eat my parents cooking every day of the week? That elevates to number one on my favorite aspect to the internship life. That said, let us jump in to the real insight along this journey. First off, I learned that commuting sucks. I was able to live at home but that meant my commute to work was approximately one hour each way. On top of that, there was no real bus line to take me to the destination and therefore I couldn't really be productive during that time. I feel like driving is a different experience from person to person. Personally, I went crazy burning two hours of my day driving bumper to bumper on the 400 series. Bottom line; I suggest finding something close to home or convenient to commute too (i.e. bus or train). If neither is feasible, I would definitely recommend downloading podcasts.

Putting the food and commute aside, the second point that really stood out is that working in industry is an amazing, and yet scary experience. Let me get into the amazing part. The people you work with can absolutely blow you away. You will have the chance to meet and work alongside intelligent, driven people. Honestly though, if you take some time and think about it, everyone has their unique story on how they got to where they are today, their own goals and ambitions, and their skills that they developed throughout their life. Take some time in your work day to network with these people. Be selfless and give your attention to others, ask questions and be curious about their story and I guarantee you it will pay off. Not only will you gain valuable skills (whether you dissect their brain on technical knowledge or work on your communication) but you also gain another network for when you are due to become a real adult. Most importantly you gain a friend. However, industry life can also be a scary thing. This is because the responsibilities and decisions you make can funnel up the chain and cost the company valuable time and resources. There are several occasions where even as an intern I felt pressure to deliver because deadlines had to be achieved in order to create and sell a product at the most opportune time. Being an intern meant that I could fall short and not lose my position but full-time employees do not have that luxury and so I admire their work ethic and drive to meet a deadline.

I can go on forever about things I enjoyed and taken from the experience but I will leave it at this: working at AMD gave me an incredible sense of accomplishment, meaningful relationships, and technical skills that I will carry with me for years to come. Being an intern I was able to take a lot more risks than an average employee could and I am grateful for that. I wish the company nothing but success and I am excited to see where they will go in the future.