



Internship Times

Lasting Internship for Tomorrow's Los Angeles (LIFT LA)

What they are saying About Us:



"Your program is not only innovative, but necessary to bring together businesses and capable college students to increase the number of young professionals entering the field. Best wishes in your endeavors and keep up the good work."

Michael Antonovitch,
Supervisor, 5th District



"The Real Time Interns working in my office were always very professional and a real asset to my deputies and staff. Their assignments were conducted with enthusiasm, thoroughness and accuracy that we came to rely on." - **Yvonne Brathwaite Burke,** former Supervisor, 2nd District

Success Through Internship

By Alan Monkawa



- *Former TFLA intern Tanat Satidkit from CSUN was a Civil Engineering Intern for the Metro Transit Group. After one year as a TFLA intern, he was offered a full time Civil Engineering Associate position with the Wastewater Conveyance Construction Division. – Congratulations Tanat!*

- *"Skills I have learned include engineering, communication, time management, organization, and customer service. When I was an intern for TFLA, my group taught me to review engineering plans as well as how to use the Navigate LA website."*

"All of this was made possible by TFLA because it opened the door to the path of my career. Thank you, again, for organizing this wonderful program. I hope to see this program running for as long as possible." –Tanat Satidkit, Civil Engineering Associate WCCD

Tanat Satidkit (left) strikes a pose at the City of LA Public Works Metro Transit Group Office.

To achieve success means obtaining objectives which are central to one's happiness and survival. Merriam- Webster defines success as achieving wealth, respect, or fame. To achieve success we need a career that we enjoy; and that can also sufficiently provide for our needs. Every year students graduate from universities with degrees, and hopes to enter the profession that they have majored in to achieve that success.

Transportation Foundation of Los Angeles's (TFLA) Internship Program eases the transition from student to professional and puts the students on the fast track to success. Student interns learn how to make valuable contributions in various departments at the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works and will be ready to hit the ground running in future positions.

Getting a job as a college graduate in the current economic conditions is often not easy. According to the Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Labor, 53% of recent graduates under 25 years old were either unemployed or underemployed as of 2012. Of the recent graduates that were employed, less than half -

-of them had a job where a college degree was required.

The answer to this problem is to gain experience through internships. Students need to start participating in internships while they are still enrolled in school so that they will be ready to step into a job when they graduate. A study conducted by Internships.com indicated that 69% of employers surveyed that had 100 employees or more made full time job offers to interns in 2012. The study did not include job offers made from outside agencies which would increase the percentage of offers made.

In the past two years 70% of TFLA interns transitioned into full time positions after completing the internship and their median salary was around \$68,000 per year as a fresh college graduate. These days, internships are viewed by many as a screening process, and are essential for bridging the gap between school and the real world. Internships are the fast track to success.



LIFT LA

Lasting Internship for Tomorrow's Los Angeles

One on One with Deborah Weintraub



“So far my experience here has been very fulfilling, I have learned a lot in the time that I have been here. I learned a lot by communicating with other departments and actually working on projects.”- **Adolfo Gutierrez, Civil Engineering Intern CSULA**



“This internship helped me learn the accounting programs and how things are run behind the scenes at the City.”- **Monica Fabric, Administrative Financial Intern CSUN**

Internship Inquires Welcome

**Contact us at:
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Deborah Weintraub is the Interim City Engineer and oversees all aspects of the Bureau of Engineering. Deborah joined the Bureau of Engineering in 2001 as the principal architect, and has been promoted to senior management.

Alan Monkawa: What has your experience with TFLA interns been like?

Deborah Weintraub: I have worked with a number of TFLA interns over the years, and my experience with the TFLA interns that I have worked with has been very positive. We have got really good quality students here that are eager to learn. They have been well reviewed and accepted by the regular staff here, and it has been a very positive experience.

Alan: How has this internship program been working out for you?

Deborah: The internship program has been great; it gives us a chance to get some help from students that are pursuing their degree, and they are serious, serious about the work. They get exposed to professional offices and get paid with the help of your Foundation so it's motivating for folks, they are not just volunteering. So overall it has been very positive, and to my knowledge we have had a number of students that were able to apply for full time City positions and have transitioned into full time City employees. It has been a very positive experience.

Alan: Have you been able to see how interns have grown as professionals and as workers?

Deborah: With my interaction with people that I have known and worked with, they have definitely grown. It's partially because our staff appreciates the help, and we have a lot to do so they get training on-



- the job; also the students that come our way are motivated, I think they have grown a lot.

Alan: What are some of the projects that they have worked on that you can remember off the top of your head?

Deborah: I can't remember specific projects, but because I am an architect by training I know that we have had TFLA interns in our Architecture Division, and they have worked on Parks, Building Design, Gymnasiums, and Community Centers. I know that there was a TFLA intern that I worked with that helped us with the River Revitalization Project. I believe we have also had TFLA interns our Street Design Division, and in our Street Civil Engineering Group, so a range of projects.

Alan: Do you think that the BOE can benefit from having more interns?

Deborah: Absolutely, the interns have provided us with meaningful assistance for our projects. We have had interns for the entire time that I have been with the City and they are very useful.

For employers and students interested in how to participate in the internship program please contact us at:

TFLAinternships@gmail.com

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