



Internship Times

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

Internship Experiences

By Alan Monkawa

What they are saying About Us:



"...thank you for having provided valuable interns to us through the RTIP...Choosing the best candidate was difficult as all the candidates you referred were very talented...I firmly believe that the RTIP benefits not only the productivity of my section, but also the young students themselves."- **Chaushie Chu, Deputy Executive Officer at L.A. County MTA**



"We applaud and wholeheartedly support your efforts with the Real Time Internship Program...EDS recognizes this program as an important step in bringing well qualified employees into the rapidly expanding transportation industry. We welcome the opportunity to participate as a corporate mentor in your Internship program."- **Lisa Elzy Watson, Director of Marketing, Electronic Data Systems**



- TFLA intern Miller Zou was an Environmental Engineering Intern at the Watershed Protection Division at the Los Angeles Department of Public Works. Miller Zou received his B.S. / M.A. in Environmental Studies from USC with a concentration in Coastal Management. Miller was hired as a part time Project Assistant by the Watershed Protection Division. -

Congratulations Miller!

- "I became part of the team responsible for creating and implementing the latest water quality regulations in Los Angeles and got direct exposure to projects, agencies and laws..."

"My internship exposed me to all of the factors that combine to make up the framework of modern environmental regulation, from the science to the policymaking to the collaborative interactions between different stakeholder groups"

-Miller Zou, Project Assistant WCCD

Miller Zou (left)



Nancy Avila was a TFLA Landscape Architecture Intern with the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) Architectural Division. A native of Riverside, Nancy has received her degree in Architecture from Cal Poly Pomona. After her tenure as an intern, she was hired by the BOE Architectural Division as a full time Architectural Associate.

A: What was one of the biggest obstacles you had overcome to get to where you are today?

N: Being the first in my family to graduate from college has been one of my greatest triumphs. However, this accomplishment came with its own unique challenges. With a lack of role models the road ahead was filled with many uncertainties. Navigating through architecture school on my own was a very difficult task. The program at Cal Poly was intense and required sacrifices including giving up a social life and lack of proper sleep.

A: Did your experience as an intern help you get to where you are, and how?

N: The internship with TFLA has been key in the advancement of my career. It was undeniably the medium to obtaining my full time position with the City of Los Angeles. The internship experience offered many opportunities for further development and demonstration of my skills in a real work setting. TFLA created the platform students need in order to showcase their talent.

A: Can you give us some examples of interesting projects that you have worked on?

N: It has been a privilege to work on the restoration of the Hollyhock House, a national historic landmark by renowned American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Currently I am pioneering the design and construction of the first eco-conscious cargo container structure in the city. This new facility explores the concept of *cargotecture* which incorporates the use of shipping containers in its design and construction. Shipping containers are sustainable, readily available, strong and durable, inexpensive and modular.

A: What advice would you give to new interns?

N: Take full advantage of the opportunities granted through your internship and get involved in as many projects as possible. Make sure to ask questions and learn from the professionals you will be surrounded with, they have so much knowledge to share.



LIFT LA

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About Our Internship

TFLA is a nonprofit 501c3 and has been operating its award winning internship program for over 20 years. We give striving students a chance to intern with the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (LADPW), serving the community they live in while gaining valuable experience and insight. The interns work on live projects in a municipal setting, a professional environment where they are taught how to perform at the standards required by the LADPW and its respective Bureaus.

After completing their internship, nearly all of the participating students are getting full time job offers at, on average, \$68,000/yr. The program has been tremendously effective at assisting the City to select talented and promising individuals from their respective universities. TFLA's internship has saved the City of L.A. millions of dollars while simultaneously giving students the break they need to start their careers and even get internship class credit from school if they apply for it.

The LADPW is the second largest public works department in the United States and is recognized worldwide. The projects that interns work on are often local landmarks, so in many cases they get to see the results of their efforts. TFLA interns with experience at the LADPW have been in high demand by outside agencies because of their experience and the high standards they were subjected to. Currently the interns being sought by the City are of a wide range of degrees that would relate to municipal services.

TFLA also welcomes military veterans to participate in the internship program, they are often good candidates because they are more mature; having had the responsibility of serving their country. Internship is what they need to get their careers started, careers that can help support a family and take care of them long term so long as they do their duty.

In order to participate in the internship the students must have at least a B average, verifiable by their transcripts and be currently enrolled in school.

BOS intern Anthony Soriano



TFLA intern Anthony Soriano was a Civil Engineering intern at Bureau of Sanitation's Wastewater Engineering Services Division (WESD) for the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) group.

"During my time, I helped to develop more than a dozen Septic to Sewer (STS) projects... I was also the primary contact person between the State, LA Sanitation, and the Los Angeles Federal Credit Union for the planning of the first mini-loan program that issues loans to septic homeowners to transition over to the sanitary sewer... I was also involved with the Mandeville Canyon STS, a three phase proposal to install 27,000 feet of sewer with the ability to support 293 septic connections. The project included grant writing, outreach and collaboration with outside organizations... Thank you and I hope that the next generation of TFLA interns will gain from this opportunity as I have."

Anthony Soriano was hired part-time as a Project Assistant for the Primary Sewers Group at WESD. Congratulations Anthony!

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

TFLAinternships@gmail.com
Office: (213) 742-9549



"TFLA gave me an awesome opportunity to explore accounting as an intern... After the internship I had hands on experience and a boost of confidence. Working as an intern taught me what I needed to blossom as an accountant."- **Van Ray Dickerson, Fiscal Administrative Intern DeVry**



"I have grown tremendously in my personal and professional development as an intern. Everything I have learned at the BSS will stay with me... I hope only the best for future interns as I know they will enjoy this experience as much as I have"- **Stephanie Gonzales, Administrative Financial Intern CSUN**

Internship Inquires Welcome

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