



Internship Times

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

Intern Employee Recognition Awards and Interviews with U.S. Veterans

By Alan Monkawa

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, Former Supervisor, 5th District**



"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**



Steve Hong proudly displays his Award with BSS Exec. Nazario Saucedo and Systems Manager Elvia Garcia

"I have worked on maintaining several different intranet applications under the guidance of my supervisor, Jeffrey Lee..."

"I learned how to coordinate assignments in small teams with my co-workers..."

"...was responsible for maintaining widely used public websites for the BSS..."

"The internship immensely improved my soft skills by having to interact with various types of people – office workers, construction workers, and high-ranking executives. These soft skills are something that classes in school cannot teach..."

– Steve Hong



Tommy Xiong receives his Employee Recognition Award Presented by BSS Executive Nazario Saucedo and Systems Manager Elvia Garcia.

TFLA Computer Science intern Tommy Xiong is a US Army Veteran, having served in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Tommy had expressed his passion for computers and joined because he was promised a role involving computers. He served for five years, achieving the rank of Sargent before he got out in 2012.

Alan: How was your Internship experience at the Bureau of Street Services?

Tommy: The experience was great. I felt I learned a lot about the Bureau and how similar it was when I was working in the US Army. I learned a lot of coding that I did not know before that will greatly help me in my future career. I also met many people who provided great guidance on how to take the next step getting into the Bureau.

A: How do you feel that your military experience has helped you work wise?

T: Working in the US Army made the transition very easy for me. As I said earlier, I worked in a similar environment so I felt right at home. I was able to quickly learn the procedures and work style in the Bureau. I believe this and the US Army core values is what helped me become a key asset for my section.

A: Is there anything you would like to tell any veterans or service members about our program?

T: I would tell anyone who is in the military or veterans that they should take full advantage of your program. It is great and will provide experience that is not always easy to get. I wish I could have done it sooner.

A: Do you feel that having this internship has helped you get a full-time position?

T: I believe it did help a lot. It provided the "real world" experience that schools just cannot provide. This also help provide the confidence I needed as I know what to expect from a full-time position.



LIFT LA

Lasting Internship for Tomorrow's Los Angeles

Jackie Tran BOE Civil Engineering Associate, Veteran, and Former TFLA intern



"TFLA's internship gave my education more purpose, being able to apply it, and is a great way to get a foot in the door and make excellent connections. Everyone at the City has been very helpful."

Brook Teferi, Civil Engineering Intern CSULB



"Gaining insider knowledge and job skills in a public organization related to the field of my study helps me prepare for future opportunities...I would like to thank TFLA for this opportunity and highly recommend to other students."

Maryam Shayanafar, Communications Intern CSULB

Internship Inquires Welcome

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Vintage photo of Jackie Tran while serving in the Marines

Former TFLA Civil Engineering Intern Jackie Tran is a United States Veteran and served in the Marines Corps (Sgt.). During his service Jackie earned a Purple Heart in Iraq.

Jackie was offered a full-time position as a Civil Engineering Associate through his internship at the *Bureau of Engineering* (BOE) while earning his Masters in Structural Engineering at CSULA.

As a TFLA Intern he was very well received by the City staff who noticed his work ethic, willingness to take on challenging assignments, and professionalism. Jackie attributes many of these traits to the skills he learned in the Marines.

Alan: How was your experience over at the BOE?

Jackie: So far, my experience has been good; everyone there has been nice and helpful. They are willing to teach you, and pass along the information.

A: How do you feel that your military experience has helped you work wise?

J: My military experience helped in a way, while I was there I was given a lot of tasks and never once have they heard me complain. -

-To this day a lot of my supervisors have told me that there is a good thing about you being a Marine, right? You know when to keep your mouth shut and do what you are told, just do it, and not complain. I think that is one thing that they liked, they would just give me the work and I'd be like "yes sir" and get it done.

A: I am sure that anyone would appreciate the can-do attitude.

J: I took on some assignments that sometimes others didn't want to do, did the work, and turned it in. They got the credit for it, but like one of my supervisors said "It's not about you, it's about the team. If the team does well, then you are doing well."

A: Is there anything you would like to say to Veterans or Service Members regarding the internship?

J: Before I was not able to obtain an internship related to my field, and being in this program allowed me to get an internship with the BOE, and now eight months down the line I am actually being hired full time by the City. I would have never thought that this was going to happen until today.

A: Congratulations! We are so happy that you could get this opportunity and be hired full time by the City, that is our goal. We think that people like you that have served the country should be able to have an opportunity to live a decent life...So you received a Purple Heart?

J: Yes, I did receive a Purple Heart. I got hit by shrapnel in the right thigh, I have two scars right here from the same mortar attack. I got hit by mortar shrapnel when I was in Fallujah.

A: Wow, that was a hot area (heavy conflict).

J: Yes it was, back then in '04.

A: Thanks Jackie, for sharing that with us. Congratulations on getting hired by the BOE, and thank you for your service!

For employers and students interested in how to participate in the internship program please contact us at:
TFLAinternships@gmail.com

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