

Suffolk Students Excel In Internships Despite Challenges

The global spread of COVID-19 has disrupted life as we know it, including the traditional college internship model. Yet, opportunities for work experience are still abundant.

With safety top of mind for both employers and students during COVID-19, several Suffolk County Community College students from Assistant Professor Kristin Conway's Cooperative Education in Business course landed remote internships during the fall 2020 semester. Staying home allowed interns to learn and work safely while staying active in the job market.

"Since transitioning the asynchronous online course to virtual internship sites, we've successfully placed our business, accounting and computer science students in business organizations throughout the U.S. and Canada," Conway said. "The students worked diligently to accomplish the objectives presented by the organizations." And, Conway said the fall success is carrying over, explaining that nearly 60 students are registered for three sections of the course during the spring 2021 semester.

"Our internships are a vital part of our students' learning experience that should not be affected by the global pandemic," Conway said. "It was a challenging yet rewarding experience creating the virtual internship opportunities for our students and I am proud of our students' accomplishments."

"The current conditions have compelled our faculty to be adaptable as they continue to provide students with experiential learning opportunities in new and expansive ways. While most students continue to intern within the county, the vision of Professor Conway has reinforced that for today, and in the future, the experiential learning laboratories for our stu-

dents will extend nationally. Among other things, our mission is rooted in opportunity and transformation. I applaud creative faculty at the College who are transforming these sources of opportunity," said Dr. Paul Beaudin, Suffolk County Community College's vice president for academic and student affairs.

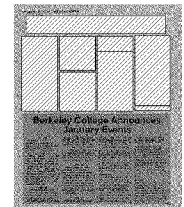
Information Technology major Edina Kizsel said she had reservations about a virtual internship.

"It was challenging in the beginning," said Kizsel, who worked for Florida-based LiquidTech Chemicals Corporation, a minority owned, chemical company specializing in state-of-the-art, effective, yet safe cleaning and sanitization products. "Eventually everything fell into place," Kizsel, who worked on marketing communications, digital marketing and strategic social media marketing explained. "The company CEO was available 24/7 and it was very easy to work with him and his team."

And that left LiquidTech completely satisfied with the experience.

"Edina exhibited, from the onset, and during our internship, the success points we at LiquidTech see as a necessary for a career path," the company wrote. "Our company's culture is built on focus, accountability and commitment (FAC). Employees and interns alike need to display these qualities to become a true performer. Edina exhibited these traits and maintained her passion throughout the internship. She committed her time and continuously learned and evolved in this project. We can teach others a skillset, but if they don't want to focus, commit and be accountable, it becomes a moot point. Edina has the FAC."

For more information about internships at Suffolk County Community College, visit www.sunysuffolk.edu.



*-Submitted by Suffolk County
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