

Carson Mullarkey, Civil Engineering Major

Junior: Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Internship Focus: Project and Cost Controls



What projects are you currently working on?

I'm working on invoice audits, backups, and preparation. I am also working with Alina Figaro, the CFO at Charge, to map out the process of internal rejections and find a way to make that system more efficient. I also have an upcoming project with one of the construction superintendents, which requires entering data and other paperwork into excel for an updated online system. Finally, I'm working on finding bottlenecks in our Copper Services program with Angus Coyle, the Director of Field Operations, in which I focused on the pre-construction side of the program.

What's something new you have learned so far?

I have learned so much about the construction process of installing gas and electric lines, including both the boring and trenching methods. I am learning about the interworking of the business side of things, and getting familiar with project management and accounting software. I have learned that doing the actual project work is only half of the battle, and that so much work goes into preparing the necessary paperwork to bring in the revenue that keeps the company running.

What do you see yourself doing in the future?

After getting my Masters Degree from Cal Poly, I plan on working for a heavy civil engineering firm for about 15-20 years. After that, my goal is to become a college professor, preferably at Cal Poly. I think being a professor later in life may give me more time to focus on the personal goals I have set for myself outside of my career.

What skills/experience do you hope to gain by the end of your internship?

A skill I would like to obtain is the ability to isolate steps in a process and thoroughly analyze how that program can be more efficient in terms of time and resources. I think it is important for a company to constantly be looking at this. Being able to analyze how to make a situation better can make you more efficient in all aspects of life, whether it be related to work or personal.

Does any particular experience stand out?

Being able to partake in meetings and see how everyone works together to take the company in the right direction has really stood out to me. It is amazing to see the amount of respect people have for one another, regardless of their hierarchy in the business. Everyone treats each other like we're on one big team with a common goal, and I know I have an abundant amount of people who will take the time to help me out. It has also been awesome to see the abundant amount of laughter that the team is able to bring out of one another.

What do you enjoy most about your internship?

I definitely enjoy the energy and the positive environment at Charge. Even through the virtual setting it is very evident that most employees are not only coworkers, but also friends. I feel like I've been welcomed into the Charge community with open arms and it's been an amazing experience.