

Ben Salazar

School: San Jose State University
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Entering: Senior year
Internship: Safety



What projects are you currently working on?

Right now, I am working on a year-to-date safety observation and incident presentation. Knowing these recordables were real events made the experience even more engaging. Also, I am working with another intern to analyze the implementation of construction software. This project gave me a clearer understanding of lessons learned and it was nice to hear the opinions of folks within Charge about this process. People were honest about whether they had a good or bad experience.

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

I hope to be better equipped to handle the technicalities of construction. I want to be confident on what is happening around me in the field. Job site visits and safety audits with field safety specialists helped, but I feel that field experience requires consistent exposure. I also want to know more about the work gas engineers do and projects they work on. I feel that kind of exposure will guide my path once I graduate. However, I would say working with Safety leadership has prepared me for stronger leadership skills I can apply to future teams that I am a part of.

What is something new you have learned so far?

I learned many things, but I will keep it brief. Right now, I would say I have a new appreciation for the importance of data analytics. So far in school we've only worked with experimental data, which only applies to the material we learn. Knowing I can analyze and decipher company data that can influence a company's direction gave me total visibility on what goes on in the company. Also, spending the day with the field engineers was a very valuable experience. It helped me understand the role better and what happens on a typical day. The amount of preparation before an actual project begins was so captivating to me. It makes you wonder about what goes on behind the scenes before you drive by a job site.

What are your goals after this internship ?

After this internship, I feel like I am in a transitional period. This internship was helpful in determining pathways for my future in engineering. One thing this internship gave me was real-world exposure and the ability to find my niche in engineering. Getting to know how the utility industry functions gives me the confidence to know what I want to do in the future and what it takes to get there. Seeing how things are going, I would like to pursue a career in the utility industry and being here at Charge only kindled that fire.