Brittany Bailey - 5 Jobs, 5 States, 5 Weeks

**Where were your internships (Company and City)?**
- Buffalo General Hospital - Buffalo, New York
- National Institute of Health - Bethesda, Maryland
- Victoria Wood, Nutrition - Washington, DC
- Jacobs Neurological Institute - Buffalo, New York.
- Cheryl Jost, Optometry - Boston, Massachusetts.

**Tell us about your internship?**
I worked for five different jobs, at five different locations, for five weeks. The jobs involved careers I could pursue with my Biochemistry degree. I was able to explore which careers were and were not suited for me. I lived with a different host family each week. I traveled by car to my new locations on the weekends. Each host family provided meals and a place to sleep. It was a wonderful time meeting new people and learning how they live their lives. In addition, the variety of home cooked meals was amazing.

**How did you find your internship?**
I attended Daniel Seddiqui’s discussion about his 50 Jobs, 50 States, 50 Weeks at SUNY Oswego. I was very impressed with his brave adventure and his openness to learn. I thought it was a neat learning experience for him to do. Therefore, when I saw the email about the 555 Internship through Experience-Based Education, I immediately went to the Compass to fill out the application.

**What is your major and did it influence your decision to become an intern?**
My major is Biochemistry and it did not directly influence my decision to become an intern. The benefits one receives from doing an internship is why I became an intern. Those benefits include a resume builder, on the job experience, life experience, and the studies showing students who have an internship as an undergraduate have a higher starting salary.

**What are your main responsibilities as an intern?**
The main responsibilities of my internship were to follow the learning agreement. At each job, I had pre-determined goals about what I wanted to take away from each week. I observed each doctor as they performed their responsibilities.

**What type of experience have you gained so far that you wouldn’t have learned in a classroom?**
What I gained that I would not have learned in a classroom is the different atmospheres of each employment. The people in the office make a difference of how much the job is enjoyable and the casual level. Each offices procedures vary as well. I also learned traveling skills. I was alone as I drove hours to these states. Once I got in the state, I had to use a map to find my way around. I had to learn how to adapt to change quickly. I learned much about navigational skills too during the drives to the locations and once at the location.

Find your next internship using the LakerLeads link on our homepage!
What is the most exciting part of your internship?
The most exciting part of my internship was traveling to all the new locations and living with host families. I got to see new places and meet new people.

Do you have any suggestions for students who would like to do something similar?
The suggestion for students who would like to do something similar is to embrace every opportunity. Try new foods, spend time with the host families, and never say no to trying something new. A lot can be learned about the world and yourself during this journey.

Do you think your internship will play an important role in your education and career?
The internship played an important role in my education because it boosted my confidence. For instance, when I was working for the National Institute of Health, I did very well when pipetting according to Dr. Praveen. However, my professors did not have confidence in my lab skills. This internship played an important role in my career since it gave me the motivation to complete my degree and start my career.

Do you have any internship advice you would like to pass on to other students?
The internship advice I would like to pass on to other students is to do an internship that interests you and take full advantage of the situation. It may be out of your comfort zone, but the reward is worth it. I was one who did not like change and was too afraid to be independent. Now, I am very comfortable with change and independence.