

Internship Experience Essay

Kelsey Brazelton

University of Arkansas

Undergraduate Student

During the summer of 2019 I had the opportunity to work for Dr. Delphinium Design and Events (Dallas Tx) as a recipient of the Mosmiller Intern Scholarship Program through the American Floral Endowment. Although completing an internship is a degree requirement for my department (horticulture) at the University of Arkansas, if it wasn't- I would have happily filled the position anyway. I have nothing but kind words and appreciation for the staff at Dr. Delphinium Design and Events, and would enthusiastically recommend this internship to any budding floral designers. The staff were quick to encourage me and push my skills to the furthest stretch of my ability, and I can't thank them enough. At the start of this internship, I already planned to pursue floral design as a career following graduation. Upon completion of this internship, I am certain that is the right choice. My work at Dr. Delphinium Design and Events one-hundred percent solidified that decision.

Before my internship started, I had two years of experience working for a floral designer. I had already worked on arrangement designs and participated in large events. However, my internship gave me experience in event installations, corporate standings, taking orders, in store display design, large scale design projects, and business management. The most influential project I completed involved the installation of floral walls (pictured below this paragraph). The largest of which was 17ft by 10ft and took 5 weeks to complete, with multiple designers working to assemble it. After completion of the project, I was responsible for refreshing the floral walls to ensure the longevity of the display. This project in particular challenged and reinforced my creative skills as a designer. This was the first time I had to push myself past my experience with traditional floral installations and arrangements, and adopt a new form of floral design I was unfamiliar with. This project pushed me to expand my skill sets in areas I had previously never applied to floral design and I am more than grateful for that learning opportunity.



Picture One: Coworker assembling large floral wall at Dr. Delphinium Design and Events in Dallas, TX



Picture Two: Coworker and I jumping for a high-five in front of our completed floral wall on display in Fort Worth, TX



Picture Three: Me sitting in front of a completed floral wall on display in Fort Worth, TX

During this time, I also participated in creative thinking exercises that prepared me for the design aspects incorporated in projects like this one. One of these exercises involved using a flax leaf as a single element to develop a design. The challenging nature of this task really encouraged me to step outside the box of traditional design work when it came time to incorporate the same line of thinking on assignments

like the floral walls. These exercises also pushed my creative skills past my experience when it came time to do traditional arrangements. Especially when I completed arrangements for events I did not have previous experience with, such as funeral design work. Funeral designs required a completely different level of care and precision than I was aware of when I began my internship. After I completed a few of these designs myself, I realized just how impactful floral design could be. That experience really allowed me to better understand that I was choosing a career that I could not only enjoy, but also make a difference with.

I can not thank the Mosmiller Intern Scholarship Program through the American Floral Endowment for the opportunity to work at Dr. Delphinium Design and Events this summer. And I am BEYOND appreciative of the staff at Dr. Delphinium Design and Events that I had the pleasure of working with. I can say without any hesitation, it is because of this opportunity that I feel confident in my future as a floral designer!

Below are some more pictures from my internship!



Picture Four: Me in front of Dr. Delphinium Sign in Dallas, TX



Picture Five: Wedding floral installation I assisted with



Picture Six: Fall themed floral arrangement I designed at Dr. Delphinium Design and Events in Dallas, TX



Picture Seven: Wedding installation I assisted with