

Kailey Brooks Report

I'm a plant science student with an emphasis in horticulture and design at the University of Missouri. I am in my second year at the University of Missouri in Columbia and am in the process of achieving my Bachelor's of Science. Throughout my first year, I became exceptionally interested and active in the floral industry. From there, I joined Mizzou SAIFD (Student American Institute of Floral Designers) where I learned about the American Floral Endowment's Mosmiller Intern Scholarship Program.

Soon after applying for the internship program, I was accepted and I began researching Baisch and Skinner for an internship position in St. Louis, Missouri. I found that, given my current goals, the wholesaler would be a good option for trying to gain experience in the wholesaling aspect of the floral industry. Communications began in late April with Dawn Loehr, a member of the Human Resources Department at Baisch and Skinner, where we conducted a brief interview about the company and my goals in the industry. After receiving the first phone call, Dawn Loehr explained to me that I would be receiving other phone calls from employees working at Baisch and Skinner to discuss my internship with them. I only spoke with one other employee, then a week later Dawn called me to inform me they'll take me on as an intern in St. Louis. And I would be starting the next Monday. Sadly, I was unable to accept the position at Baisch and Skinner due to the inability to find affordable housing in the area of the wholesaler within the time frame I received.

From there, I looked at local flower shops in the Columbia area. Where I found Tiger Garden. Tiger Garden is a student operated, full-service, retail floral shop on the University of Missouri's campus. I soon contacted Melissa Daniels, the manager, about possibly doing an

internship through Tiger Garden. We discussed the different positions I would work in, such as event planning, designing, maintaining the shop, and other basic duties in the shop. After interviewing with her, she agreed to create an internship position so I could experience multiple aspects of a retail floral in the Columbia area. We set the date for the internship to begin May 16th and end August 19th, 2016. I was excited to begin my new internship in the floral industry and start to discover what working in a retail floral shop was like and to learn how an events business operated.

After starting my internship, I had several events in the Tiger Garden Events Division in which I participated in and I learned so much about customer service from Rebecca Melton and Kylee Lawhead. I learned how to set up a wedding venue on site and how to design bridal flowers, and so much more from the events team. I also learned how to operate several computer and phone systems while learning floral design and shop maintenance within the shop. Working within Tiger Garden was a truly amazing experience, and everyone who worked in the shop was helpful, hardworking, and overall had positive attitudes. The atmosphere of working there, reinforced my goals of wanting to work in the floral industry.

After finishing my 13 weeks with Tiger Garden as an intern, they offered me a position to work in both the events division and in the shop. After accepting the position, I've already designed for several events and customers who've placed shop orders. I would love to thank Baisch and Skinner for providing the time to discuss and create an internship with me, perhaps in the future the opportunity may work out. I'd also like to thank Melissa Daniels for allowing this opportunity to happen at Tiger Garden. Finally, I'd like to thank the American Floral Endowment for providing this intern scholarship program, it truly provides students with

opportunities to gain amazing experience and education within the floral industry. Without AFE, I wouldn't have had this experience. Thank you all.

-Kailey Brooks