Tagawa as a company, while being one of the largest greenhouse facilities in the country, keeps a sense of strong family dynamic that I was lucky enough to join during peak season and was able to hone many useful skills alongside some utterly amazing people. So, Tagawa is true to their word when they say they grow amazing plants, extraordinary people, and relationships that last.

I began my internship within the seed department working under Raul who was also going through his first peak in the department. He still found the time to show us all the ends and outs of the seed room, while still learning some of it himself. My days there consisted of inventorying seeds in from deliveries, allotting seeds to the planting line, and recording the new weights of the unused seeds.

After the seed department I was moved to Tagawa's Golden location to work with some truly hardworking people like Carlos, Cosmo, and Sherman, who were the management for Golden, really made sure to give me as much time in as many operations positions as possible to round out my experience there like printing and distributing jimmy tags, quality checks at the ten day and five day mark from shipping, and lamia cuttings for propagation but I had the most fun working with the Autostix and getting to handstick some of the cuttings coming from all over South America.

When my time at Golden ended, I returned to Tagawa North facility to help Letti with packing and distribution where my understanding of the jimmy tag system was tested, but I found the way they organize and prep their trays for shipment was not only affective it also had a strong quality control aspect that was nice to see and made me feel like Tagawa really does care about what they send out to the customers.

I was then given the opportunity to go the Tagawa’s Southwest location in New Mexico for three weeks where I worked under Miguel and Geo who were some of the nicest and most willing to teach growers. Within the second week I was able to work in TSW’s cannabis production range and learned priceless knowledge on keeping living soils with the use of Miguels signature top dress for plant nutrients and their liquid application of nutrients for
the living soils bio-organisms. The third week let me dive deeper into harvesting and preparation of cannabis such as lolloping the plants and bucking the buds once they have been hung to dry for a time.

Once I returned from TSW I joined the In Color team starting at Costco under Katie and had an exciting time getting to know the local community and helping with flower recommendations along with consolidation and rack management across a district. It was enjoyable to watch people pick out the flowers they planned to give to loved ones or keep for themselves, knowing how hard everyone I met worked to make it happen as smoothly as possible. When the peak season was over for Costco, I was then assigned under Alissa to work in district twenty-six within a cluster of ten home depots over the Denver area and can say the traffic between those stores was the only part of the whole experience I did not enjoy.

One of the last places I got to visit was Tagawa Gardens which was by far one the nicest garden centers I had ever seen, not only were the plants some of the highest quality to begin with but the staff there go far beyond what you would see at a run of the mill garden center when it comes to keeping the desirability of the plants and the cleanliness of their work environments.

In the last few weeks of the internship, I was given the opportunity to talk with the administration of Tagawa about how exactly it all comes together for the different departments and how they stive to not only maximize productivity, but also genuinely care for their employee's wellbeing. Being able to talk with many of the administrative staff members really opened my eyes to just how much they care about not only Tagawa’s growth but the growth of each employee and truly strive not only to match their slogan, but to surpass it in any way imaginable by growing amazing plants, extraordinary people, and relationships that last.

If I were to pick a singular event or my biggest takeaway from my time in the Tagawa family it would come from the time I spent working with the growers in TSW and getting to see the years of experience that Miguel and Geo culminated not through school, but through arduous work, trial and error, and love for the plants. I believe it is the love of plants that keeps people working in the greenhouse industry and loving it even with all the setbacks you can face while trying to make a living from it. While it does scare me in ways being on the cusp of starting my life in this industry, I know the industry itself is built of the same kind of people that love plants and I look forward to the many years I will have to help the industry to grow.