Michigan State University College of Engineering
The Center / Spartan Engineering

Spartaneering News

Welcome Back, Spartan Engineers!
The Center wishes you good luck this Fall

If you would like to be the Spotlight Student of the week, send your 200-250 word summary about your co-op, internship or research experience to SpartaneeringNews@gmail.com
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
YOUR SEARCH, YOUR CAREER, YOUR WAY!
Tuesday is Seminar Series Day/Choose your Sessions: Tuesday 6:00pm in 1345 EB

THE BASICS
Log-in to MySpartanCareer September 8
Working Your Résumé (Backwards) November 3

ENGINEERING 360: Advanced Career Search for Seniors
Ready, Set, RUN!!!! Career Search Head-first and fast.... September 15
Stir the Pot – Good Communication and Follow-up Techniques October 13
Networking 444 – Advanced Networking using the hottest tools! November 10

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION
Is Career Gallery for me? Looking for experience? September 22
You think Career Gallery was a waste of your time? Think again! October 20
Home for the holidays? What are the job possibilities? November 17

JOB CLUB (Begins in October)
October 27 and November 24
Be part of the club! Join in for discussion on what’s working, what’s not, and what’s hot in the job search today.

Weekly Offerings (Offered September 14 – November 19)
See Session Description for day, time and location
Offered by the Career Services Network

Quality Résumé Writing (Offered 8/8 – 12/2)
(Not offered 10/7 and 11/25 due to events/holiday)
Tuesday 4:30p – 5:20p and Wednesday 11:30a – 12:20p
In 21 Eppley (Lear Center)

In's and Out's of Interviewing
(Not offered: 10/8 or 11/26 due to events/holiday)
Thursday @2:30p – 3:30p in 1345EB

Workshop designed to help you prepare for an interview, handle any question, and properly follow-up.

Network or Not-Work
Tuesday @ 3:00p – 4:00p in 161 CAS

How to effectively network your way to a job!

Career Fair Cram Sessions for College of Engineering
Tuesday, September 29 in 1345EB
Monday, October 5 in EB/Lobby

Career Fair Do’s and Don’ts Learn the tricks, be the stand out! Tues, Sept. 29 1345EB
Full Time Job Seekers 6p – 7p
Co-op/Intern Seekers 7p – 8p

Spartaneering Cram Hear from Employers before the fair! Mon, Oct. 5 6p – 9p EB
Speed Networking, Resume Critiques & Panel Discussions
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Brian Warner, Mechanical Engineering

Industry: U.S. Military Defense Consultant
Position: Level II Intern Engineering
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Class: Senior

During the 2009 summer semester, I worked as an engineering intern at DCS Corporation. DCS Corp. is a military contractor that provides engineering services to several branches of the U.S. military. As an engineering intern with DCS, I worked with several projects concentrating on the integration of computer and electrical systems into the Army MRAP (Mine Resistance, Ambush Protected) and Stryker Vehicles. A lot of the work I was involved in was in-vehicle engineering to decide how new systems would interact with the current layout of the vehicle and the soldiers using the vehicle.

When it came to accepting a job this summer, DCS seemed like a great opportunity. The only thing that I was apprehensive about taking the position was that most of the engineers working at DCS have computer or electrical backgrounds. This ended up leading to the most practical experience I gained from working. Though I mostly worked directly with mechanical engineers, I was able to gain a lot of computer and electrical engineering knowledge from working in interdisciplinary teams. The most practical skills I learned from other engineers were not scientific formulas and equations; it was technical skills like reading drawings and learning common terms. These are skills that are expected of engineers working in teams with different engineering backgrounds but can only be learned from experience.

DCS provided me with experience in several areas that were not related to engineering but are important when searching for full-time employment. The first unique element of working with DCS is that it is a relatively small company. DCS employs about 800 people throughout the U.S. but only about 30 in Michigan. In previous internship experiences, I have worked for much larger companies. One thing I liked about working for a smaller company was; I thought that there is a lot of communication between different areas of DCS. Almost all of the communication was done face-to-face. I felt that this provided for faster turn-around on projects and more people giving their input to problems.

Another unique element of working for DCS is that, DCS employees work directly for the Department of Defense as part of DCS’s contract to provide engineering support to the US military. This means that, while DCS hired me and my pay check came from DCS, I worked on projects that were assigned by the Army (TACOM). This was interesting for me because during a previous internship I worked directly for the Army but I worked with several contractors. It was interesting to see the advantages of working for this type of employer.

The most important part of any internship for me is, keeping busy and doing real engineering work. The people I worked with at DCS had projects and assignments for me all summer. I think part of the reason I was had many projects (more than any other internship I have had) was because, when there are so few employees, adding another, even temporary employee, dramatically increases the amount of work that can get done. Especially during the summer months when people are often out for vacation, it was even more important to have another employee to keep up with deadlines and keep projects on track.

Overall I was very satisfied with my internship at DCS. I was given a lot of independence to choose which groups I work with. I was kept very busy throughout the summer but I was also free to take a half day or a day off when I wanted to go on vacation. I also enjoyed the people I worked with through DCS. I learned a lot about engineering and working in an engineering environment that will make me more marketable when I begin my full-time job search.
MySpartanCareer is the Career Services web-based system that allows you to:

- Search and apply for on- and off-campus jobs and internships
- View, apply, and sign up for on-campus interviews
- Connect with resources to help you manage your career search
- Get information on upcoming events, workshops, presentations, and event cram sessions
- Keep your resume updated and current

1. Go to [www.myspartancareer.com](http://www.myspartancareer.com) and click on MSU Student log-in
2. Log in using your email username/password
3. Click on profile and fill out your information
4. Upload your resume: Click on “documents” and “Add New.” You can now search and apply for jobs and internships