Aden Calinisan

I am Aden "AJ" Calinisan, a rising high school senior at Trinity Christian Academy, and I participated in the AnnieRuth Foundation's Summer Internship Program. After completing the program, the foundation matched me up with The Haskell Company, a large design, engineering, and construction firm. There, I learned more than I ever could have in school. Each day presented new challenges and obstacles, and I was constantly being given engaging tasks to accomplish. I entered the experience aspiring to become a Software Developer majoring in Computer Science. Now that I have completed my internship, however, I wish to become a Software Developer still, but instead of majoring in Computer Science, I would like to major in Computer Engineering. By taking Computer Engineering rather than Computer Science, my education would be closer to an Electrical Engineer's allowing me to find a career in either the software or hardware side of computing. My mentors at Haskell, Anton Whiteford and Charles Odom, taught me about Electrical Engineering and gave me helpful advice about college. They were the ones who sparked my interest in parts of Electrical Engineering.

There are a multitude of soft and hard skills I learned at Haskell. For one, I had never been in a corporate environment before, so I had to get used to professional life at an office. As for soft skills, or skills that come with experience and not just through instruction, I learned to cooperate with my co-workers and listen to my mentors and other instructors. Three hard skills I acquired are the abilities to use Microsoft Teams, Visual Lighting, and Revit 2020. Microsoft Teams is the main communication platform used at Haskell. Used by Electrical Engineers, Visual Lighting works to aid in lighting designs and ensures proper lighting levels in rooms. Revit 2020 is an architectural software which allows models of buildings to be created. Revit is especially important in the architecture industry as it allows for all the data needed for a buildings construction to be compiled into one site plan. I tried my hand at some lighting calculations in Visual Lighting and building modeling in Revit. On top of that, Jacob Thurlow, the head of Haskell's high school intern program, took us to job sites every week. At those jobsites, which ranged from jet hangars to wastewater treatment plants, we learned about the construction process and how it relates to architecture and engineering.

I would like to express my gratitude towards the AnnieRuth Foundation. With their help, I was able to acquire critical information for the professional world and real experience within it. Thanks to this program, I have a leg up in my resume. Not only that, but I also learned about what it is like to work as an engineer. I have industry experience which usual high schoolers and even college freshmen and sophomores do not have the opportunity to obtain. This program was invaluable to my future goals. Thank you, Ms. Dee and the AnnieRuth Foundation!