

# INTERN WALL of FAME



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### **Internal Audit Intern**

Calpine's Corporate Office, Houston, Texas

During this past summer, I had the privilege of interning at Calpine's Corporate Office based in Houston, Texas! Calpine is America's largest generator of electricity, operating a modern fleet of natural gas-fired and geothermal power plants throughout the country. My experience with this corporation taught me more than I could have ever imagined and I am incredibly thankful for this amazing opportunity. As an internal audit intern, I was submerged in the industry by partaking in numerous entry-level tasks, including executing detailed audit procedures, preparing work papers in accordance with standards, and performing SOX control testing and key report testing. Aside from working at Calpine's headquarters, I was able to partake in on-site plant audits all throughout the country, including in California, Delaware, and Wisconsin. These business trips were unforgettable, allowing me to gain real-world experience in the field which I will cherish throughout my professional career. It was also quite rewarding that during the plant audits and other assigned tasks I was able to use the knowledge I learned throughout my college courses. I am very lucky to take away a new-found knowledge and understanding of the field of auditing and skills that are necessary in the professional world such as communication, time management, and accountability.

I would highly recommend an internal audit internship with Calpine to other students who are interested in the field. A summer internship is an opportunity to test drive your field of interest, giving you a chance to see what it would really be like to work in a particular field or industry. This internship really opened my eyes to the field of internal audit, where I hope in the upcoming semesters to participate in an external audit internship. It would be highly gratifying to have an opportunity to experience operating independently from the organizations that are being audited as opposed to the internal experience I had this past summer.

My advice to other students would be to get an early start on the internship search, since these are such rewarding experiences that every student should have the privilege to participate in. When you have a free moment, apply to any opportunity that interests you. Having experience in your desired field allows you to decide if this is the profession and field you really want to



spend a majority of your life in. Also, what I found extremely helpful in regards to planning your future is talking to professionals within your field. The insight these professionals provide to you will be insanely beneficial to your future career plans. My coworkers at Calpine shared their experiences working in the field, how they first became involved in internal audit, and suggestions for working in the industry, which provided me valuable insight and advice about the future of my professional career. Most importantly, it is very important to step out of your comfort zone, because the best experiences will result from you doing so! I was very hesitant about moving to Texas all by myself for two months, but living and working on my own turned out to be such a rewarding experience. I always reminisce on when I was debating going to Texas, but now I can't imagine myself working and living anywhere else in the future!

Without all of the assistance and support from the Career Development Office services I would not have been able to participate in such a rewarding internship over this past summer. Before applying to any internships, I always stop by the CDO to review my resume, where I receive tips and pointers on how to improve my resume to showcase all of my experiences as professionally as possible. I additionally visit the CDO prior to interviews, where I receive help on my interviewing skills. During these appointments, the staff practices interview questions with you, observing your strengths and weaknesses while suggesting possible improvements. Before getting this assistance on my interviewing skills, I was not confident speaking with professionals, but now I am able to facilitate professional conversations with ease. The CDO is even available to discuss internships, where they point you in the right direction of what opportunities are available in regards to what interests and future aspirations you have. The Career Development Office's commitment to students' success is phenomenal, and I would highly recommend going relatively often to create a strong foundation for your future!