

After being accepted into the Shattuck Family Internship Program within the Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Social Change Program at UMBC, I was searching for a placement to do an internship focused on entrepreneurship when I found International Social Service- USA (ISS-USA). I first thought working a non-profit would not classify as “entrepreneurship”. Yet, I was clearly wrong. Even though ISS-USA is a nonprofit with a long history, they run like a strict business and one that is constantly evolving. I have learned a tremendous amount during my internship, from small simple skills to understanding the complex world and how organizations run from within.

More specifically, I learned how contracts are made and the implications of them, which is something simple, but very powerful in the way that business is conducted. In addition, I have subconsciously absorbed the importance of organization. I noticed that ISS-USA was extremely structured before I even had my interview. Within 24 hours of contacting them, I got an email back asking to set up an interview. Once working at ISS-USA, I noticed that the various systems they have in place allow them to be the most productive and most beneficial for their target populations.

Wendy, my inspiring mentor, has taught me more about the importance of data and data analysis than I have ever hoped for. Through her guidance, I have also learned a vast amount about how companies create their social media presences. For example, I was taught how to recycle content by not necessarily changing the material, but by how it is presented.

Additionally, I had a weekly meeting with Wendy. In these meetings, they allowed me to ask questions. Wendy and I would discuss everything from why ISS-USA does this a certain way, why is the world structured this way, or even why is this happening. As an introvert, it allowed me to become comfortable and confident to take the opportunity to learn as much as I

could. After each hour section, I walked away feeling empowered and excited.

But, most importantly, I experienced working side by side with people who are passionate about doing better. They have encouraged me to be curious and apply myself to whatever I choose to do. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at ISS-USA and I am grateful to have this experience.

- Brooke, Spring Intern 2014