



Labovitz School
OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH
Driven to Discover

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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Starkey Hearing Foundation



How did you choose where to intern and did you seek help?

I decided to intern at Starkey Hearing Foundation because I knew my work would have a direct and positive impact on people in my community and around the world. I asked a family friend who works at the company to recommend me to the hiring team. The recommendation did help to get me an interview.

What challenges did you face while interning and how did you overcome them?

One challenge I faced was the complexity of working with different teams to come together on a huge project. As the Events Intern, I worked on our annual event, So The World May Hear Awards Gala, which hosts 1,500 guests and helps to raise \$9.5 million for the foundation annually. With many different teams from different company branches working on this, communication at times was lost. This ultimately resulted in a couple cases of a team being in the dark about some details on the day of the event. We overcame this by using our best judgment to make decisions on the spot and conducted multiple team debrief meetings that resulted in a better communication strategy for next year.

Another challenge was dealing with last minute changes on our international and domestic hearing missions. With travel, cultural differences, legal differences, and our inclusion of customers and sponsors on missions, we were constantly making changes to the schedule and details. At first, I felt overwhelmed, but as my internship progressed, I learned to be flexible by utilizing open communication with my supervisor and being patient with others and myself.

I learned that everything comes together in the end, so stressing over last minute changes is not worth it at the end of the day. I also learned to trust myself to handle the pressure of quick decision making, which helped me to accommodate the constant changes.

What was the most surprising yet rewarding experience you had?

My most surprising yet rewarding experience was attending the annual So The World May Hear Awards Gala. Nothing could quite prepare me for all the events leading up to the gala and the gala itself. It is truly an experience unlike any other. Being able to see the production of such a huge event from behind the scenes was eye opening from an organizational management perspective.

With many celebrities, such as Johnny Depp and Jay Leno, attending the gala, I learned the meaning of professionalism on a whole new level by watching how Starkey staff members appropriately interacted with celebrities. I learned more in just one night than I ever could have imagined.

What recommendations do you have for someone starting their internship journey?

I would recommend that students make an effort to get to know not only their team members but also members of other teams as well. Having a variety of contacts in the company can be a huge help when you need additional resources for various projects.

I also would recommend to find an internship where you know your work will really be making a positive impact on the world. Knowing how important your work is makes those long hours much more satisfying!