

Omar Zarabi, [Brian Moaddeli](#), Jarric Ramos:

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to thank Omar Zarabi, Jarric Ramos, Brian Moaddeli and the rest of the College Works executive team for giving me a fantastic learning experience in the College Works Painting program.

When I started into the College Works internship in Spring 2011 I had a lot of expectations about the money I would make in the program and hopes about the business skills I would gain. Starting in February I was working harder than I had in my life, doing College Works while running the advertising department at the UC Davis campus newspaper on top of going to school full time and keeping an active social life. It was an incredible challenge, but with the support of Omar, my Regional Consultant, I was able to build the time management skills necessary to thrive at all my endeavors. Come June, I had \$80K in sales for College Works, we had turned a profit at the paper for the first time in years, and I managed to hold onto my GPA, my girlfriend, and my social life. During that same time I took my communication skills to a whole new level, learning to weigh my words and relate to people on a professional level in order to get things done. Come summer, I was thrown into an environment where I had to take my newfound time management skills to a whole new level while also honing my leadership and management skills to the point that I could oversee \$85K in production between three crews. At the beginning of the 2011-12 school year, I found that I had not only built up an incredibly vast skill set, but also developed a ridiculous level of confidence and maturity.

At least as important as the skills I built through the College Works internship were the friends I made. I quickly grew very close to all the other interns on Omar's team, getting to the point where I was checking in with my teammates at least 2-3 times per day so we could check each others' progress and help each other out. As the year progressed and I got to know interns even outside of my team I joined an amazing group of people that sets the "best people I've worked with" bar very high. Getting to go out for Go-Kart racing, Jet-skiing and all the other Payroll Friday events we had was one of the key factors in getting me through the program and a great opportunity to develop friendships with my colleagues. I also had the pleasure to work very closely with Derek Jorgensen and [Brian Moaddeli](#), the College Works California VPs, and as they started to mentor me I received a great deal of personal coaching that contributed a huge amount to my personal development over the course of the program.

At the end of the day, I'd definitely recommend this program for anyone who wants to see success later on in life. Through all the life lessons I've learned, skills I've built and friends I've made, this has been a life-changing experience. Thank you all so much for the experience you helped me to get; this is something I know will help me out so much in my own ventures.

Kevin Kankel

UC Davis Student