

Taylor Griffon

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Education

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA August 2011- May 2015

- B.S. Community, Environment, and Development – Dean's List
 - Environmental Economics and Policy Option
 - Spanish Specialization

Work Experience

Pennsylvania State University Extension - Intern, University Park, PA January 2015- Present

- Assisting in developing a set of strategic goals and action steps that will identify key areas of focus for the coming years, based on an informal assessment of Pennsylvania's green industry: its needs, challenges, and opportunities. The green industry comprises a variety of businesses (commercial nurseries, Christmas trees, turf grass, etc.) that lack a unifying voice to advocate for their needs.
- Involvement in the development and analysis of a survey to be distributed to thousands of individuals in the Centre County Region.

Sustainability Institute - Research Assistant, State College, PA September 2014- Present

- Assisting in the development of a set of key competencies in order to support academic programs in shaping thinkers for a more sustainable tomorrow. Sustainability courses have been developed and taught in higher education, yet comprehensive academic programs in sustainability, on the university wide level have emerged only over the last few years.
- Research and analysis of competencies in comparable universities to better enhance the sustainability efforts of the Pennsylvania State University.
- Reengineering and the reworking of the Sustainability minor at the Pennsylvania State University.

Blackstone Country Club- Intern for the Controller, Peoria, AZ May 2013- Present

- Assisted in the day-to-day operations of the accounting department of Blackstone Country Club.
- Aided the controller with the company's financial statements, general ledger, cost accounting, payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, budgeting, tax compliance, and various special analyses.

Alliance Residential Company- Property Management Intern, Phoenix, AZ May 2014- August 2014

- Gained valuable experience in management turnaround, marketing services, leasing agent, pricing strategies, vendor negotiations, budgeting, and everyday operations of a 627-unit Multi Family Housing property.
- Obtained a comprehensive introduction to Alliance and the property management field while acquiring marketable skills and experiences pertaining to every aspect of running a successful business, including sales/marketing, customer service, business management and administrative functions.

Leadership Experience

Centre Regional Planning Commission – Community, Environment, and Development 475: Capstone

- Conducted a project for the Centre Regional Planning Agency to better understand the potential for creating 'pocket neighborhoods' (e.g. neighborhoods clustering houses or apartments around a shared open space) in the Centre Region.

Rural Development Initiatives in the Yeguaré Valley, Honduras March 2014

- Participated in a service trip, which was an overview of the many economic development issues facing rural communities in the valley. Our trip consisted of explorations of initiatives intended to improve the local economy and reduce extreme poverty. Since our trip we have explored many of the topics and hope to continue to provide support to these projects.

Pennsylvania State Dance MaraTHON, University Park, PA August 2011- Present

- Involved with THON (www.thon.org), the largest student-run philanthropy in the world. The Penn State Dance Marathon is a yearlong effort to that raises funds and awareness for the fight against pediatric cancer. Public Relations Team – 2011-2012, Finance Team – 2012- 2013, Donor and Alumni Relations Team – 2013-2014, Special Events Team – 2014-2015.

Alpha Chi Omega Fraternity, University Park, PA September 2012- Present

- Performed as Spring 2012 through Fall 2013 Standards and Chapter Relations Sophomore Representative.
- Represented as Alpha Chi Omega's 2014 THON chair and in turn raised over 198,000 dollars in support of pediatric cancer and was chosen as one of 748 dancers from Pennsylvania State University to participate in a 46 hour no sitting, no sleeping dance marathon.