The Summer of Enlightenment

I spent this summer working for a non-profit organization called After School Matters. My scholarship provider, The James F. Kemper Foundation, organized the placement of this internship, with expectations that I will find my own internship in a for-profit setting the following summer. In addition to summer employment, 19 other students from across the nation and I were provided critical leadership development training that lasted for the duration of the summer. Reflection, goal setting, and reading more were points of emphasis with the foundation.

After School Matters is a Chicago-based company whose primary objective is to expose Chicago teens to the skills necessary for employment in the workforce through creative and expressive outlets, such as music, dance, art, and technology. I was a Communications Intern for this company, responsible for highlighting important information as it pertained to marquis projects and events for both internal and external audiences. Oral and written communication skills were absolutely vital for this position because I had various writing assignments and presentations that depended on a strong foundation in both areas. The importance of planning and organizing was stressed at this company, so I walked away with some very valuable tips that I will take with me in any future endeavor. Overall, being in Chicago on my own for the summer and dealing with work-world situations taught me a lot about myself, and I attribute this growth in character to the professional network I have developed at Xavier. Never once did I feel unprepared for what awaited me, and I can confidently say that I was equipped with the basic instruction every intern should have from my learning experiences here at Xavier. Had a great summer internship this year, had a great summer internship last year, and I’m looking forward to another one this summer!

Leon D. Vaughn
Junior Sales & Marketing Major