

MATC Internship Report



MID-AMERICA
TRANSPORTATION CENTER



FELSBURG
HOLT &
ULLEVIG

connecting & enhancing communities

Peyton Weiss

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As kids, most people want to be famous sports stars, firefighters, or princes and princesses, but not me. I wanted to grow up and be an engineer just like my grandpa. My favorite thing to do was visit him at his office; I would sit in his chair, and I would pretend that I was the engineer. I'm not pretending anymore. As my second year as an intern at Felsburg Holt & Ullevig (FHU), I can't help but think back to those days as a kid. I am living out my dream. A dream that FHU is helping me pursue.

My summer at FHU has been very rewarding. Being my second year with the company, I already had a basic knowledge that allowed me to be given more independence and responsibility. I have worked on several projects this year; I have done signal retimings, safety studies, school studies, traffic impact analysis, interstate corridor studies, and my personal favorite was an environmental study where I was able to help fly a drone to collect data about wetlands along the Missouri River. I had the opportunity to spend a week in South Dakota doing field work for the South Dakota Interstate study. As a part of the study, FHU was tasked with surveying and analyzing every interstate interchange in the entire state of South Dakota. With the information collected we would then identify which interchanges would require updates and improvements and the priority level of the improvements. This information will help the state of South Dakota use their tax dollars to improve the roads that need it the most. Being the senior intern, I was able to lead a team on this project. It was a great experience that taught me valuable lessons about leadership and teamwork.

Going to school in Lincoln, I have spent my fair share of time in the downtown area, so when I was able to be a part of a project to retime all of the traffic signals in downtown, I was very excited. This project, dubbed "Green Light Lincoln", has been the

MATC SUMMER INTERSHIP REPORT

major project that I have worked on this summer. I have spent countless hours in the field getting measurements, taking site photos, and sketching condition diagrams. I have attended meetings, created synchro files, and looked at count files for almost every intersection. It has been time consuming, but it has been rewarding; I was able to learn many things and see the different sides of engineering.

When I first started at FHU, I was unsure of what to expect. I was an agricultural engineering major, not civil engineering. I had no knowledge and no training. I just wanted to find out what I liked, and really that's all an internship is supposed to be, an opportunity to learn and find what your passionate about. FHU has been the perfect place for me to do just that. I have been able to try countless things. I wasn't just stuck in a cubicle all day, I went to meetings, visited project sites, collected data in the field, and much more.

The environment at FHU was amazing as well. Everyone in the office was friendly and always ready to answer questions. These people started out as my coworkers, but they have turned into my friends. I am a part of my boss's softball league and it has been a blast. One of my coworkers is getting married, and I am going to bartend at his wedding. That will certainly be an adventure. FHU has helped me build connections with people that will last a lifetime. Even if I do end up working somewhere else, I know I will always have friends at FHU.

All in all, the past two years at FHU have been nothing short of life changing. I am 99% sure that I am going to switch to civil engineering. FHU is a wonderful place to work. They truly care about their employees; even the lowly interns. It is a professional environment, but it is also an environment where you can have fun and truly enjoy your

MATC SUMMER INTERSHIP REPORT

time at work. FHU cares. Interns at FHU are treated with respect, they are taught how to be good engineers, and they are taught how to be better people. It truly is a FHUn place to work.