

The Internship

A look inside a fellow Spartan's Hospitality Business summer internship.

Joaquin de la Cerda Harlow



The Restaurateur

Hometown

Ann Arbor, MI

Graduation Date

May 2015

Internship

Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises (LEYE)
Chicago, IL

Area of Interest

Food and Beverage

Campus Involvement

Heart of House Director, *Les Gourmets* 2014
Co-President, Spartan Enology Society

Future Plans

Joaquin will study abroad in Europe for the first half of summer. The second half he will work at a wine shop in Ann Arbor and study for his Sommelier.

The Perfect Candidate

This is a great Level 2 internship if you want experience operations, love the restaurant industry, and looking to live in a big city.

About the Spartan

Joaquin de la Cerda Harlow is currently a junior in *The School of Hospitality Business*. He has a strong passion for the food and beverage industry. Joaquin is the perfect example of all the potential *The School* has to offer, especially when combined with his inspiring work ethic. Joaquin completed his Level 1 internship after his freshman year as a server and eventually a supervisor at Mainstreet Ventures, located in Ann Arbor, MI. On campus Joaquin has been very involved in *The School of Hospitality Business*. He has worked on *Les Gourmets* each year, where he met his mentor Nate, who encouraged him to research Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises for the summer. Although this company typically hires juniors, Joaquin was proactive and his go-getting attitude paid off at *The School's* annual Career Expo!

The Internship

Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises (LEYE) is a restaurant group based in the Chicago area that owns and operates over 50 concepts and continues to grow. LEYE is known for creating high quality and successful restaurants. Joaquin worked at Café Ba-Ba-Reeba! LEYE hired on one other Michigan State student for the summer. Overall LEYE hires around 45 interns for the summer. The interns are given entrepreneurial projects throughout the summer to gain more experience in the industry. Joaquin explained how important it was to take advantage of his time in Chicago, especially since his shifts typically fell in the late afternoon and evening hours. Interns are placed in the host position, which Joaquin found very important. The restaurant typically saw over 1,000 covers a day, and the wait was consistently at one to three hours. Joaquin knew the importance of his position; he was the first impression to be made on each person who walked through the doors.

His Advice

Joaquin had a great experience, working for an extremely successful company and living in downtown Chicago. His advice to fellow students is the importance of knowing what you want out of internships. When interviewing with companies it is so important to let them know what you want to do, where you want to be, and the expectations you have for the internship. Joaquin explained, ***“The cool thing about internships is you’re not stuck there, it’s just as important to learn what you don’t like as it is to know what you do like.”***