

9/19/18

To Whom It May Concern:

I had the pleasure to work with Benjamin Webber over the summer of 2018. Ben worked for us in the capacity of industrial design intern. Our intern program approach is straight forward: the expectation is that the intern takes on real work and acts in the capacity of a bona-fide employee. In this fashion, our teams learn from the intern, and hopefully they learn from us. To that end, interns are given a variety of problems that they can engage in. In Ben's case, he was interested not only in industrial design, but manufacturing and UI/UX development as well. The summer went by fast and there are plenty of things that I could remark upon as it concerns Ben; my overarching comment is that he exhibited excellence during his time here.

A few comments:

Model employee

Ben is communicative, punctual, and personable. He was consistently early every day and always focused on the tasks we gave him through the summer. He worked very intensely and in many cases, after hours to both to burnish his portfolio and learn new skills. This likely accounts for the large volume of work that we was able to undertake; I am sure we did not explore his limitations.

Good communicator

Ben exhibited communications skills that I have not seen in some senior level designers. Even before he started his internship, he let me know his travel plans and his window of opportunity – these, months in advance. He was proactive when communicating with various members of the team around him; remarkably self-sufficient and respectful. His demeanor tends to be calm and reserved: attributes that are very helpful in some of the [heated] discussions we have here at Johnson.

I often think in terms of a person's integrity as it relates to communication: do they represent ideas accurately? Do they bend the truth? High marks for Ben in this regard: on a personal level and also on how his ideas related to design.

Great problem solver

A good example of this was when Ben was able to de-bug his computer software – this, by going on-line to find a solution that our IT team was not able to provide. The following comment came from one of our IT specialists [unsolicited]: "While I obviously cannot speak to Ben's Design capabilities, I wanted you to know that we appreciate his initiative in assisting us with fixing the issue he was having with SolidWorks and Photoshop. While we hope to have some of the answers in IT, we cannot have all the answers, especially when it comes to the more specialized software in the building such as SolidWorks and the Adobe Suite. This was very refreshing and speaks to a greater talent of problem-solving. A skill, I am not sure can be taught and can come in handy I am sure when trying to solve design dilemmas."

Smart

Ben is smart. That's it. He's carries no attitude about it, no edge.

He has a broad knowledge base and interests in many areas; he considers many things in the world. The fact that he has knowledge about cars, metalsmithing or how to sharpen knives, all go to input his outlook and help him understand design problems more deeply. Part of the work he engaged in during his stay was with our UI/UX team – as with his other work, the delivery was more on par with a working professional: well-thought out.

In my career, I have worked with many dedicated designers and engineers. While it's true that Ben was here on our team as an intern, he operated more within the capacity of a full-on designer. He demonstrated outstanding skills and work ethic while on our team. Any company or school would be foolish not to consider him for a position.



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