

Internship Testimonial

by Perry Smith

Innovative Engineering, Inc. is a wonderful place to begin exploring a career in structural engineering. Rarely does an intern get the opportunity to be mentored by the founder of their company, but that's just what I experienced at IEI. From day one, Scott would spend ample time coaching and advising me through tasks that I was assigned by both himself and other senior engineers. These tasks were always of an engineering nature; I never had to spend my days filing and sorting company documents or other resources, and I always felt that my time and input were valued. If I ever had trouble with something I was working on, help was just a few steps away, as the whole office operates on a sort of open door policy where everyone is eager to answer questions and lend advice.

College courses are great at equipping you with a broad set of fundamentals and some underlying theory, but I always found them lacking a certain practical outlook on the engineering profession. At Innovative, I gained far more practical knowledge that can be applied across any structural engineering job I may hold than I ever have in a classroom setting. Ever spend class time learning how to determine the capacity of a weld? Didn't think so. Did you investigate the code requirements where structural loads come from? Kind of, but not really. What about sizing column base plates? Me neither. I was introduced to all of these concepts along with many other rules of thumb and useful insights in my time at IEI.

My internship at Innovative was my first exposure to professional structural work. As such, I had very little experience with any typical structural engineering software. This was quickly rectified at IEI as a good portion of my time was spent being shown how to work in several widely used industry programs like Revit, Visual Analysis, and RAM Structural System. Additionally, I was introduced to many smaller programs that facilitated my day to day calculations. Developing skills in these programs was one of my most valued takeaways from the internship.

I enjoyed my time as an intern at IEI immensely. The one-on-one mentoring, accessible coworkers, focus on practicality, and technological savvy I found here all made for fantastic experiences that greatly enhanced my understanding of the structural engineering profession.