

# Executive Internship Program

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To Our Sponsors:

It is my pleasure to compile and distribute the Executive Internship Program newsletter for this school year. The entries in this newsletter have been developed by the high school interns who participated in the Executive Internship Program throughout the school year.

This school year has been very successful for all involved. I would personally like to thank all of our wonderfully supportive sponsors for taking the time to teach these students what professional life is really all about. There is no greater challenge than to face the unknown, and these students have all taken that risk and grown from the experience.

As always, the Executive Internship Program thanks you for your continued support and for the meaningful experiences that you allow EIP students. I know how much of a responsibility it is to have an intern, and I am greatly appreciative that you are willing to take the time to enable students to experience the professional setting. I look forward to successful and exciting semesters to come.

Dr. Mary C. Black, Program Coordinator  
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***Experience is the key.***



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## EXECUTIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Executive Internship Program offers academically talented students professional experiences in a community setting. Geared to developing management skills and refining career preparation goals, this program provides the opportunity for carefully selected secondary students to intern with community leaders. Through involvement in actual problem solving, students apply advanced academic skills and define goals for further study. It is offered as a dual enrollment course through a cooperative agreement between Pinellas County Schools and St. Petersburg College. Executive Internship Coordinators, who are certified Pinellas County Schools teachers, serve as liaisons between students, schools, and agencies involved; both high school and college credit are earned for the course.

The course credit which is awarded for this experience recognizes the importance of school and community partnerships in developing dedicated professionals and effective leaders. By extending career development beyond selecting appropriate professions and defining long-term goals, students actively work with personnel in a variety of professional fields, such as medicine, law, communications, government, business, and social services. Interns attend important meetings, prepare reports, analyze data, make public presentations, and recommend courses of action. Unlike a work study experience where students are paid for work in entry level positions, the Executive Internship Program pairs students with professionals who model leadership skills. In addition to determining their aptitude for a specific profession, students are encouraged to aspire to leadership roles and to explore career options within the field.

Colleges and universities find that professional goals of Executive Internship graduates have been tested through experience, and students have become effective self-directed learners. They are recognized as excellent candidates for the high expectations of colleges and universities and are often awarded scholarships or admitted to target programs as a direct result of their manifested commitment to the career and to personal and professional excellence. Sponsors who have participated in the Executive Internship Program see internship students as having well- focused goals, interest in the field, and practical ability in problem solving. Similar programs are offered across the nation, and since its introduction to Florida in 1972, and Pinellas County Schools in 1974, the program has provided thousands of students with unique career-related experiences. Follow-up surveys indicate that graduates of Executive Internship have completed programs of higher education and have become successful professionals who credit the Executive Internship Program as being a defining experience in their lives.

## **Executive Internship Program**

### **A Dual Credit, Experiential Education Success**

The Executive Internship Program was introduced into Pinellas County high schools in 1974. Today, the Executive Internship Program is affiliated with a national organization of experiential education programs and has been nationally recognized as a model program by the U.S. School-to-Work office. Well over 8,000 students in Pinellas County have participated in the program.

The program represents a unique blending of the business community, the local junior college, and the public schools. It is available to eligible high school students during their senior year. The students spend an average of 10 - 15 hours a week working with a professional at decision-making levels in their future career field. Students are not paid by their sponsors, but they do receive high school elective credit and college credit from St. Petersburg College for their participation. The serious educational nature of the program requires that interns maintain analytical logs of their activities; participate in seminars; prepare college-level coursework and presentations demonstrating what they have learned during the internship; and submit a program evaluation.

*Internship placements include but are not limited to:*

Law	Banking	Engineering	Dentistry
Computers	Public Relations	Business	Government/Politics
Medicine	Law Enforcement	Fire and Rescue	Architecture
Advertising	Social Services	Environmental	Marine Science
Communications	Accounting	Education	Cultural
Archeology	Physical Therapy	Media Productions	Veterinary Medicine

## SUMMER 2023

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### **Boca Ciega High School**

There were no summer Boca Ciega High School participants.

### **Clearwater High School**

There were no summer Clearwater High School participants.

### **Countryside High School**

There were no summer Countryside High School participants.

### **Dunedin High School**

There were no summer Dunedin High School participants.

### **East Lake High School**

**Rama Malkeya** had an amazing internship opportunity, under the guidance of **Will Payne Manager of Performance and Budget at Largo City Hall**. Rama always knew she wanted to go into the Finance and Business career field, so she used this internship opportunity to explore. Rama learned how local government budgeting works, and now knows

how the budget goes through all the different departments in Largo. Rama was tasked with finding and fixing corrections in the Budget Document that was being released, she attended meetings with the team, and overall saw the basic budget process in local government. Rama gained valuable career knowledge through her internship, and she experienced real life as an adult. **Will Payne** and his team showed Rama how to handle budgeting for the **City of Largo** and showed her a new side of a career field. Rama now has a better understanding of Finance and Budgeting thanks to her internship at the City of Largo. Overall, Rama had a great experience in the Office of Performance and Budget at City Hall with Will Payne and will use this experience to confidently pursue a Finance and Business Career.

During her internship with the **Tarpon Springs Police Department, Paige Simonsen** learned about the various aspects of a police department by interning with **Patrol**

**Officers, Detectives, Administrative Staff, Dispatchers, and Technicians**. While on patrol with officers, Paige encountered homeless people, people intoxicated by drugs, and the witnesses of a car accident. Paige also learned that a large portion of police work involves dealing with non-compliant individuals. She also spoke with several Detectives about some of the cases they've had and the thought process intricacy that a detective must possess in order to be a successful detective, which was her favorite part of the experience. Paige spent time with the Property and Evidence Technician, who showed her how they ensure all evidence is properly collected, analyzed, and stored until it is released. She then spent a day learning about the type of information that must be redacted from digital files before it is sent to attorneys or released to the public. Lastly, Paige spent time helping the Police Chief's Assistant and the Law Enforcement Support Specialist with required errands and learned that they ensure the department

is able to run properly. Paige also met the K9 Officer who has trained dogs that won awards for their incredible ability to detect the scent of people and substances. Paige is now considering Law Enforcement as a potential career field and is incredibly grateful to **Chief Jeffrey P. Young, Major Frank Ruggiero**, and the rest of the members of the **Tarpon Springs Police Department** for providing her this opportunity to intern with them.

#### **Gibbs High School**

There were no summer Gibbs High School participants.

#### **Hollins High School**

Under the guidance of **Kasey Wade of the Florida Wildlife Research Institute's Marine Turtle Research Department, Dylan Schroeder** learned all that goes into running and maintaining a marine biology laboratory. Both **Kasey Wade** and **Sue Murasko** taught Dylan the many procedures and routines involved in their experiments on sea turtle samples. While at the internship site, Dylan was taught by **Kasey Wade** to gather yolk samples from

unhatched sea turtle eggs and take skin samples from unborn sea turtle embryos to gather isotopic and genetic data from them. **Sue Murasko** taught Dylan how to prepare skin samples under a microscope using forceps and a scalpel to remove the fatty tissue from the sea turtle skin. Learning more about sea turtle biology, chemistry and what it takes to run a scientific laboratory has given Dylan a better understanding of marine science causing him to take interest in a potential future career in marine engineering.

While shadowing **Mr. Patanow in the Multimedia Productions Department at the Pinellas County School Board, Melissa Tran** learned the skills that are required in this field. Multimedia producers must be able to think creatively and be able to generate videos that provoke emotions in their viewers. With this knowledge, Melissa gained insight into future career options such as film that she may want to pursue. When Melissa started the internship, she had many years of experience working with Adobe After Effects; however, by completing the internship, Melissa

gained in-depth skills in Adobe Premiere Pro, software that is commonly used in the film industry. Melissa edited promotional videos for **Pinellas County School Board** employment opportunities and for Azalea Elementary School, incorporating new techniques she learned. By shadowing **Mr. Patanow**, Melissa gained knowledge of how to edit videos to a professional extent, furthering her previous knowledge. This internship had an impact on Melissa by giving her confidence in her skills which will be needed entering a media-related career field.

#### **Lakewood High School**

With the assistance of **Amanda Johnson, Office Manager at Worman & Worman Dentistry for Children, Jordan McIntosh** interned under **Dr. Sandra Worman, DDS**, where Jordan was able to gain useful knowledge of Dentistry and begin to learn the ins and outs of a dental office and its staff. During Jordan's time there she was able to observe many routine cleanings in addition to some very interesting operations like teeth extractions and even a tooth bonding. Jordan also got to learn all about the

sterilization process for tools and how to tear down/set up a dental chair. After observing several cleanings, Dr. Worman allowed Jordan to perform a cleaning on a patient under her supervision. Jordan was able to continue performing cleanings for Dr. Worman as she showed her how to chart, take x-rays, and even how to analyze the x-rays. Jordan was so glad to be a part of such an uplifting and energizing staff at Worman & Worman with Dr. Sandra Worman as their compassionate leader. Jordan, who had only had a slight interest in dentistry, is now seriously considering pursuing a career in the field and becoming a dentist.

**Borislava Naneva interned at Lockheed Martin** under the guidance of her sponsor **Mr. Alvaro Buenrostro** and his team. Borislava shadowed **Ms. Jennifer Simpson**, a well experienced engineering aid who makes the production lines run smoothly and as optimally as possible and **Ms. Giavanna Tabarini** a newly hired Industrial Engineer (IE) who also helped oversee their auditing team 6S. Through her learning experience Borislava attended regular

team meetings discussing performance, 6S audits, and even got to help keep up documentation as well as perform program updates. Through these experiences Borislava learned to step out of her comfort zone and advocate for herself as well as a newly gained understanding of the quality and standards a facility such as this holds themselves to. She also became more familiar/proficient with many types of software tools in the field. Overall, this internship helped facilitate her interest in engineering and her want to become a future aerospace engineer.

### **Largo High School**

With the assistance of **Guest Engagement Team Lead Chelsey Gabrillo**, along with all the **Guest Engagement Team Leads**, **Lucia Kitsos** had an enlightening and exciting experience at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Aside from learning more about animal care through simply being around it every day, she also learned more about what it takes to spread the word about conservation and the importance of marine life. During her internship, she shadowed presentations and worked

certain stations where she worked closely with kids, taking the opportunity to engage with them about their favorite animals in the aquarium, as well as asking and answering their questions. She also had to quickly learn how to handle guest questions and has improved in her public speaking skills. Before the internship, she struggled in keeping her thoughts aligned, but throughout this experience she was able to learn how to speak her mind quickly and coherently. Lucia's hands-on experience provided her with an amazing opportunity that helped her connect more with both people and animals. She learned about the intricacies of large companies and how they work together, as well as the importance of correct speech and vocabulary. She also learned how to combine the scientific world with the popular world in a way that will not minimize the importance of correct information and correct communication. She also has been learning the importance of teamwork and how a group of people can make a difference, even in times of crisis. She also learned the importance of both knowing useful scientific knowledge and knowing



how to communicate it effectively. Lucia wants to go into the animal sciences when she is older, and this experience has helped her see the other practical ways where this love for animals can go and be applied. Lucia is very grateful for this month of learning, seeing, and doing and is so happy she was able to have this experience.

With the help of **Marvin Thoroughman of HCA Florida Largo Healthcare, Matthew Lim** gained experience and knowledge through his experience in interning in the **Radiology and Operating Room Departments**. Matthew observed the general medical workplace of a hospital through visiting the different departments. Matthew observed surgical operations by shadowing **Main Technician Andrew James and CRNA Emilia Hanely** in the OR with his most exciting experience being able to witness an exploratory laparotomy and bowel resection. He would assist the CRNA before and after the procedure to learn what a nurse anesthetist does. Also, Matthew spent time in radiology under the guidance of **Technician Penny Schutzendorf** to learn medical terminology

and insight into differing medical occupations specific to each field during many operations. Matthew is grateful towards those who helped contribute to his experience, and he thoroughly enjoyed it all. The internship allowed Matthew to explore different fields of medicine and helped him narrow down his future career in the medical field.

#### **Northeast High School**

There were no summer Northeast High School participants.

#### **Osceola Fundamental High School**

There were no summer Osceola Fundamental High School participants.

#### **Palm Harbor University High School**

With the help of **Marvin Thoroughman, Volunteer Services Manager, Maya Awad** had the pleasure of interning at **Largo Medical Center**.

Throughout this internship, Maya broadened her horizon by learning about different aspects of medicine that go into the interventional radiology (IR) Department Gastrointestinal (GI) Department, and

procedures of the Operating Room (OR). **Angella Szydlik, X-Ray Technologist**, sought these opportunities for Maya to understand various medical career fields and the mechanisms of each field. In the interventional radiology department, Maya observed procedures including a transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt (TIPS) procedure and a percutaneous transhepatic cholangiogram (PTC) procedure. Watching radiologists, nurses, and x-ray technologists work together to provide the best possible care for the patient taught Maya Awad about valuable qualities such as teamwork and communication and their importance in patient care. In the gastrointestinal department, Maya observed medicine and technology coming together to efficiently diagnose patients non-invasively. Watching these procedures take place not only taught Maya about the procedures GI doctors take, but it also opened her eyes to the various technologies medical personnel utilize to provide the most comfortable and safe experience for the patient. Furthermore, Maya Awad learned about careers that she has never even heard of. Through her experience



in the OR, Maya learned about **Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists** (CRNA). Although Maya is interested in perusing a career in anesthesia, she has not heard of CRNAs before this internship, and now she is aware of more options in choosing a career. The internship at Largo Medical Center did a lot more than teach Maya about medicine, it also taught her about the importance of qualities such as kindness, patience, and hard work. Maya is now completely confident in her choice to pursue a career in medicine.

Through the incredible opportunity presented by **Kathleen Goulding, MS, MBA, RN, Marolina Binyamen** interned at the **Advent Health Palm Harbor Emergency Department**. Marolina expanded her understanding of emergency medicine and the procedures necessary to diagnose and treat patients. Marolina worked with a variety of health care professionals, including physicians, nurses, paramedics, and radiology/lab technicians. She saw each staff member's role in assisting the patient and how they all work together to achieve a common goal. Marolina

shadowed many **ER physicians, such as Dr. Brian Roy, D.O, Dr. Elizabeth Martino, MD, Dr. Matthew Smith, MD, Dr. Michael Longley, MD, CMO, Dr. Jeremy White, D.O, and Dr. Mary Bister, MD.** Marolina saw various approaches to diagnosing illnesses and learned about each one of them. Marolina also worked with the registered nurses such as **Jim Witmer, RN, Sandy Grady, RN, Kathy, RN, Dana, RN, and the paramedics Austin, PM, and Ramzy, PM.** Finally, Marolina observed the radiologist technician, Peter and the laboratory specialist, Jackie. With all of the staff's extraordinary help, Marolina witnessed many medical procedures, such as EKGs, sutures, and scalp staples. Marolina also saw the analysis of bloodwork, bodily fluid samples, and Covid/Flu tests as well as various radiology scans like x-rays and CTs. Additionally, Marolina followed the physicians around and saw them as they spoke to the patients, ordered tests, analyzed the results, and prescribed medication or referred/admitted the patient to the hospital. Marolina was so grateful to the staff who took the time and effort to explain

everything to her and make sure she was learning the most she could in her time at the ER. Thanks to this amazing experience, Marolina thoroughly enjoyed the fast-paced system and was exposed to the wonders of radiology scans and reports and is ready to pursue a career in radiology in the future.

During an internship at **HCA Clearwater ER**, facilitated by **Volunteer Resource Manager, Marvin Thoroughman, Elena Jensen** saw and learned about the day to day running of a high-quality stand-alone ER. She is very grateful for how welcoming and helpful everyone in the ER was. Elena learned about all the different tasks performed by all the different healthcare personnel who work there. She learned all about the inner workings of an ER and more about what is required to work in the various roles available in an ER. She learned many things, such as taking vital signs of patients and the proper handling of lab specimens along with a variety of other helpful tasks around the ER. She greatly appreciated the opportunity to uncover the thought process behind patient treatment in an ER.

Through this experience she has gained a more interested stance towards working in an ER and is seriously considering pursuing this avenue in healthcare. Elena feels that this experience has greatly influenced her decision on which aspect of healthcare to join in the future.

**Payton Kolnicki** had the privilege of interning for two amazing educators, **Dr. Wright** and **Dr. Hauch**, at **BayCare's Sally L. Bailey Education Center for Nurses**. Payton began this experience to learn whether she should pursue a career in nursing and with the intent to be as helpful as possible. She was honored to observe **BayCare's 5th Annual Evidence Based Practice Conference** where she learned how BayCare works to continually improve their hospitals for patients and staff. Payton helped nurses set up the conference, and **Nurse Dominique Gould**, took Payton on a tour of **Morton Plant Hospital** where Payton saw the **ER**, and experienced how the nurses, the doctors, and the techs all work together as a team. Payton visited the ICU and learned about COVID protocols, and she enjoyed learning how focused and patient-

oriented every department is. Payton also visited the **Labor and Delivery Unit, NICU, and Interventional Radiology**. With **Dr. Hauch** and **Dr. Wright**, **Payton** observed RN and LPN educational simulations, and she interacted with professionals at all educational levels. Through **Dr. Wright's** and **Dr. Hauch's** simulations, Payton learned more about vital signs and patient care. Because of her experience she feels she is on the right path and should keep will continue her path in pursuing a career in nursing.

This summer, **Ridha Rayani** interned with **Hendry & Parker, P.A.**, a law firm that handles criminal defense, family, and personal injury cases. The experience of working in a law firm was very enriching for Ridha, as her dream is to become a criminal lawyer. **Mr. Kris Parker, Mr. Don Hendry, and Mr. Jaden Wildridge** assisted Ridha with becoming more equipped with the basic knowledge and information required to properly understand the career field. She learned the processes of a criminal trial, including what is done before the trial itself by the lawyers and law

enforcement. Ridha gained more knowledge of family law and personal injury cases as well, which exposed her to other types of law. Through many one-on-one conversations and discussions, she began to develop the writing, speaking, and conversational skills that are immensely required in the field. Although Ridha currently hopes to become a prosecutor in the future, gaining the defense's point of view was quite insightful, as she expanded her perspective to both sides of an argument instead of focusing on just one or the other. Ridha enjoyed her time at **Hendry & Parker, P.A.** and is greatly appreciative of the opportunity and knowledge that this firm has provided her.

Under the guidance of **Lacie Daehler, Office Manager of Bay Dermatology and Cosmetic Surgery, Karol Sedrak** learned about the inner workings and practices of the Dermatology practice and observed various procedures performed by Dermatologists, ranging from excisions for treating cancerous cells to cosmetical procedures including Botox and fillers. Throughout her internship

experience, Karol recognized the significance of effective teamwork and communication amongst everyone in the office to provide patients with their respective treatments and diagnoses, thus providing them with pleasant experiences. **Dr. Michael Krutchik, Dermatologist, Michelle, Medical Assistant, Dr. Kathryn Anderson, Dermatologist, and Alex, Medical Assistant** allowed Karol to observe direct one-to-one patient interactions, ranging from simple skin checks to cyst or cancerous cell excision surgeries, and tasked her with highly valued assignments in a medical setting, including capping and labelling anesthetic injections or completing the labelling for the biopsy bottles. Karol also witnessed a full and partial face lift and became more familiar with cosmetic procedures under the guidance of **Katie Bernhardt, Certified Physician Assistant**. After completing this internship and attaining novel information regarding Dermatology, Karol further sparked her interest and increased her eagerness in pursuing a medical career and aspires to become a future Dermatologist.

**Prisha Sherdiwala** interned at the **Walter Pownall Center Facilities Design and Construction Department** under the guidance of **Mr. Scott Livernois and Mr. Doug Pollei**. Through her internship at the center, Prisha obtained a holistic understanding of the construction and design industry through interactions with various design professionals. Prisha attended several construction site visits with **Ms. Erin Ellis and Mr. John Borycens** where she learned about construction materials, processes, and trades. Visiting sites with **Dr. Manda Rahgozar**, Prisha learned about the immense role of Civil Engineering before, during, and after the construction of buildings. Additionally, with the assistance of **Mr. Javier Perez**, Prisha learned about concepts of Electrical Engineering in the context of the construction of buildings and the importance of electrical inspections to ensure the safety of buildings. Lastly, Prisha understood how to navigate design plans with the assistance of **Mr. Jason Novisk and Mr. Scott Livernois**. Thanks to her internship at the **Walter Pownall Center**, Prisha has a much better

understanding of construction and design processes to navigate a career in **Engineering**.

**Gianpaul Taldone**, with the guidance of **Mr. Todd Still, Vice-President for Programing/CPO** at the **Dunedin Fine Arts Center**, learned a great deal about children and how to engage them during summer camps. Gianpaul found it interesting to find ways to set a peaceful tone each day for the children so that they could learn, laugh, and enjoy the camps. Gianpaul learned that in working with children, it is important to show them mutual respect solidified by humor and kindness, so as to alleviate any nervousness that would hinder learning and fun. Gianpaul intends to work in a psychological setting and may focus on pediatric psychology.

### **St. Petersburg College Early Admissions Program**

**Celintina Do** had an exceptional internship at **Bay Dermatology**, located in **Palm Harbor**, which provided her with an invaluable professional learning experience with the expertise and guidance of her dedicated sponsor,

**Dan Sultan, Practice Manager.** Examining Dermatology procedures with cancerous melanoma, setting up MOHS surgical trays for future patients, and aiding Medical Assistants (MA) firsthand with open sutures, are some of the many experiences **Celintina** witnessed. She learned the fundamentals of medical staff working behind the scenes through patient room preparation, restocking surgical instruments, and refilling lidocaine syringes. She studied the formation of cancerous skin patches such as basal, squamous, and melanoma cells through Medical Assistants and examined the steps of cauterizing open lesions and wounds from shadowing **Dr. Krina Chavda** and **Dr. Katie Bernhardt**. **Celintina** recalls the most exciting moments of her internship to be witnessing complex dermatological procedures, but also garnering connections with Physician Assistants (PA), Medical Assistants (MA), front receptionists, and doctors, growing her network and professional skills. Her personal and occupational abilities have flourished as a result of **Bay Dermatology** facilitating an inclusive,

secure, and instructive environment that fosters student growth.

Furthermore, **Celintina** has refined her career aspirations within and beyond the medical field due to the internship, which offered her memorable learning experiences and valuable connections through shadowing doctors and MAs.

### **St. Petersburg College Early College Program**

Under the supervision of **Marvin Thoroughman, the Volunteer Services Manager, Cecelia Burns** truly had an amazing internship experience and found her future passion at the **HCA Largo Medical Clearwater ER**. Cecelia had always been interested in the medical field and this internship was her first official step in pursuing her career. Cecelia had to jump right into all the action and acclimatize herself to the staff. She especially felt welcomed by all of the **Nurses and CT Techs**, who enjoyed telling her stories of their careers and even some of their most interesting cases. She observed different interesting procedures like the application of stitches, staples, ultrasounds, and electrocardiograms (EKG),

while also learning many new medical terms that she can't wait to use. One of her favorite parts was the initial interaction with the patients and how each patient loved telling them their life stories along with their problems. **William Todd** made such an impact on Cecelia and taught her so much knowledgeable information. She could tell he found joy in explaining the products they were using or the drugs they were administering. As time went on the nurses allowed Cecelia to bring patients back and start vitals on them, this made it easier on the nurses and allowed Cecelia to do something hands-on. Overall, Cecelia felt strongly influenced by the people she worked with and the experience she had. She now knows for a fact that she would like to go into nursing, and she can't wait to make an impact on people's lives.

As an intern at **BayCare**, Noah Cressman gained valuable experience and knowledge about the business side of the healthcare industry. Through the help and insight of **Ms. Christa Brown, the Business Operations Manager**, Noah learned how hospitals measure

productivity, the difference between capital and operating expenses, how hospitals save money with vendors or internally, and so much more.

Additionally, Noah spent time with the **Director of Operations, Jeremy**.

Jeremy let Noah observe several meetings and showed him how the financial sheets work at BayCare. When asked for comment, Noah was willing to discuss what he gained from the experience: "I think I gained a lot of knowledge from my internship, about healthcare, business operations, and so much more. It was a great learning experience, and his sponsor helped him to have an even more educational experience."

Noah added that he felt his experience helped him prepare for college and his future; and he thanks everyone at **BayCare** for guiding him in the direction of Business and Finance

**Skylar Di Dio** had the privilege of interning with **Pinellas County Schools** outstanding **Engineering** and **Architectural Design** staff at **Walter Pownall Facilities, Design and Construction Department (FD&C)** led by **Mr. Doug Pollei** with the direct sponsorship of **Mr. Scott**

**Livernois**. She was provided with information that has led her to new career insights, and she enjoyed the design aspects to where she is considering becoming an architect when she attends college.

While under the guidance of **Marvin Thoroughman, Grace Fontana** learned all about the world of healthcare and nursing at **HCA Largo Florida Hospital**. During her internship, she witnessed firsthand what it's like to be a nurse in the **Emergency Department**. There, Grace was educated about patient care, how to perform an EKG and take vitals, how to check on patients, and she helped the staff however possible. She learned all about what nurses do and how important their job is. During her time onsite, she saw the influx of people coming into the **Emergency Room** daily, how they get initially assessed, treated, and eventually discharged or transferred. Through this, she helped treat many different types of cases, such as cardiac patients, stroke patients, a patient in liver failure, and an overdose patient. Grace is grateful to those who contributed to her learning, especially **Nurse Lissi**, who she was shadowing for

most of her internship. Grace learned that even though she may not want to specifically be a nurse in the **Emergency Room**, she will pursue her passion for nursing and medicine in another area.

**Yasamin Muayyad** had the profound opportunity to intern under the direction of **Michelle Cook at Bay Dermatology and Cosmetic Surgery**. This transformative opportunity has provided Yasamin with a driving force to begin shaping her future pathway of becoming a Physician Assistant. Yasamin was instantly welcomed with extreme kindness and assistance from the staff members and providers in the clinic. Yasamin began shadowing various individuals that each held a unique and crucial role in maintaining a successful and supportive practice. She instantly became acquainted with a plethora of complex medical terms that facilitated her understanding of the nuances of dermatology. Yasamin also had the great chance of comprehending the intricate subtypes of skin cancers and witnessed the complexities of skin disorders while observing the skilled **Doctors** and **Medical Assistants** during patient visits. During the

patients visits, Yasamin observed the art of diagnosis and treatment, as well as recognized the significance of a comprehensive approach to caring for a patient. Additionally, Yasamin was immersed in an environment that adheres to strict guidelines and protocols in consideration to ensuring safety and sterilization; she was taught hygiene practices and sterilization process of equipment, including organization of certain instruments and patient biopsies. Yasamin also practiced the skills demonstrated to her by drawing up medication into syringes, maintaining and ensuring cleanliness of examination rooms, as well as communicated effectively with the staff members, the medical assistants, and the patients. Throughout her time at **Bay Dermatology**, Yasamin gained a great amount of crucial skills, advice, resources, and experiences that have furthered her passion to study and pursue medicine. This opportunity became a major turning point and guiding factor in Yasamin's personal and educational growth; the individuals she met while interning left an everlasting effect and strengthened her

passion and determination to continue to study medicine until achieving the goal of becoming an esteemed **Physician Assistant**.

During **Maryam Shehata's** time at **HCA Largo Medical Center**, she acquired a wealth of knowledge and valuable skills in the healthcare industry through the direction of **Marvin Thoroughman, Volunteer Services Manager**. Maryam spent her internship in three healthcare areas: the **Emergency Department, Operating Room, and the MRI Room**. Maryam was mentored by **Nurse Lissi** who allowed Maryam to engage in typical activities in the **Emergency Department** like taking the vitals of a patient such as their blood pressure, heart rate, and temperature along with their EKG. Not only this, but she also learned many different types of medications such as Zofran which helps with nausea, and morphine which is a pain killer given through a patient IV. Additionally, Maryam was also introduced to modern imaging technologies such as **MRI** by **Nurse Rochelle**, which increased her grasp of diagnostic techniques and their

significance in inpatient treatment. During the MRI scans, Maryam was exposed to various brain images, including patients with strokes and tumors, and she was fascinated by how varied each brain looked. Finally, Maryam's favorite part of her internship was observing a bypass open-heart operation. Maryam witnessed a six-hour surgery in which a vein was extracted from the patient's leg and stitched into his heart. She was prepared to scrub in on the surgery by putting on PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). During the procedure, Maryam was mentored by **Nurse Sanchez**, the **Nurse Anesthesiologist**, who provided her with a full explanation of the surgical preparation. **Nurse Sanchez** highlighted to Maryam the need to maintain patient's bodily levels on a constant basis. Maryam observed how the **Surgical Technologists, Anesthesiologists, Assistants, and Surgeon's** teamwork was so critical to a successful surgery outcome. The experience at **HCA Largo Medical Center** has not only solidified Maryam's passion for healthcare but has also exposed her to new advancements in

medical technology,  
broadening her perspective  
and fueling her desire to  
stay at the forefront of  
medical innovation.

**St. Petersburg  
High School**

There were no summer St.  
Petersburg High School  
participants.

**Seminole  
High School**

There were no summer  
Seminole High School  
participants.

**Tarpon Springs  
High School**

There were no summer  
Tarpon Springs High  
School participants.





























