

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PORT INTERN GETS "FITTED" FOR CAREER TO WORK THIS SUMMER WITH SWISS BANKING FIRM

*POLA Staff Walk Intern Through The Fine Points
Of Making It In The Business World*



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SAN PEDRO, Calif. - Favio Hernandez, 21, from Wilmington, Calif., describes himself as a product of his community and credits his education to a number of community members and programs. This is evident when his Port of Los Angeles supervisor plans to take him out this week to shop for business attire to prepare him for a prestigious summer internship with United Bank of Switzerland (UBS) in New York.

Hernandez, a University of Southern California business administration major, will be one of 150 students to participate in this internship, a selection made from a pool of 5,000 applicants nationwide.

"Before I started interning with the Port of Los Angeles, my world was very small and only included Wilmington. I never even went to Long Beach as a kid," said Hernandez. "Everyone in the Port has been so giving. They have helped me get a bigger perspective on what the world can offer me."

His supervisor and mentor of four years, Port Financial Manager Chuck Turner, will personally go with him to find the necessary tools to make a lasting first impression, such as a briefcase, portfolio and business suits.

"I want to help Favio feel ready to take on his new role. You only have one chance to give a first impression to show that you're prepared," said Turner. "I am happy for Favio and I hope his experience in New York

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Port of Los Angeles Intern Gets Fitted

2-2-2

broadens his horizons.”

In addition to teaching Hernandez financial management skills, Turner has also stressed fundamental factors not necessarily taught in school, such as networking and opening a checking account. This is not the norm for a supervisor, but 10 years ago, Turner was in the same position as Hernandez, working as an intern for the Port when his supervisor took him under his wing and gave him insight on how to achieve success. The tables have turned, and now Turner is sharing the skills he learned from his mentor with his mentee.

Coincidentally, Turner’s mentor, Jim Preusch, serves on the board for International Trade Academy (ITA), the program that helped Hernandez find an internship with the Port and ultimately admittance into USC. Hernandez’s \$4,000 scholarship to USC came from ITA member Watson Land Company.

ITA began five years ago at Wilmington’s Phineas Banning High School and has helped 180 sophomores, juniors and seniors, find summer internships with local businesses each year. According to ITA founder and executive director Carol Rowan, 90 percent of the students who participate in ITA go on to college.

Rowan has a special connection to Hernandez’s success since she was the one who helped him get an interview with USC and even went with him for his interview.

“I remember Favio was so nervous before his interview at USC that he could barely eat,” said Rowan. “Though I may have played a part in helping him with his interview, it is really to Favio’s credit he is where he is today. Many people can open doors for you, but you have to go through it and make it happen. Favio studied hard and got the grades he needed to make sure he got accepted to USC, his dream school.”

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Port of Los Angeles Intern Gets Fitted

3-3-3

There are 40 businesses participating in the ITA program. Rowan said that one of the unique components of this program is the way that successful Wilmington residents have given back to the community. One example is Bruce Seaton, the Port's interim executive director, who is also a Banning High School alumnus. Seaton teaches economics each Tuesday at Banning High School.

Hernandez is already giving back. He created the ITA Alumni Association early this year. The association has 30 members who help current ITA participants through fundraisers and class presentations. In addition, Hernandez is also mentoring a current ITA student who, like him, plans on going to USC.

Hernandez, one of six children (all boys) in his family, will begin his internship on May 25th for a 10- to 12-week program. He is expected to graduate next year. He will be the first college graduate in his family.

For more information about the ITA program, please contact Carol Rowan at (818) 708-0351 or visit their website at www.ITEP-la.org.

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