

Editor's Note



Distributors, Should You Consider an Intern?

Aside from its use in the medical profession, the word "intern" tends to conjure up images of college students in engineering, management, or marketing curricula spending time as interns at large corporations. That scenario might be a match for a large manufacturer of pressure washers, but let's think about something much more modest. "Co-op" or "summer job" would better convey the picture.

For example, you might tap into a local community college for someone who wants real-world sales experience; or a local vo-tech school might be a source for a budding mechanic who is looking for experience outside the school shop. Checking it out is probably as simple as calling the school office and inquiring as to whether they have a program that interests you. If they don't have any particular program, they still might be interested in providing candidates for a dose of real-world experience. (When you contact a school, it wouldn't hurt to have prepared a simple outline of what sort of work exposure the student would receive.)

Why go through this exercise? A student that isn't just occupying a seat in school is likely to be thirsty for real experience. And students know that upon graduation, it looks good to a prospective employer (perhaps your company) if they have had some hands-on experience. And of course if the intern-student turns out to be a good worker and the chemistry is good too, you may even want to hire him or her.

If you connect with some sort of intern arrangement, a few points of common sense need to be kept in mind. On one hand, you have to assume that they know zilch about anything beyond their academic courses. Just like a new regular employee, they will have to be taught everything from square one. On the other hand, resist the temptation to use the intern as cheap labor assigned only to a couple of menial tasks. Try to give them a variety of exposures, and that can certainly include menial tasks—if they're eager to learn, a positive attitude will prevail.

Not having first-hand experience with this sort of thing, I'm not claiming to dispense wisdom here. Please just accept it as a suggestion to consider.

Handwritten initials "GW" in a stylized, cursive font.

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Industry Calendar 2009

May 19–21 2009 Appalachian Underground Corrosion Short Course (AUCSC), West Virginia University, Morgantown, W VA. For more information, visit www.aucsc.com.

Aug. 18–20 2009 American WJTA Conference and Expo, Marriott Houston Westchase Hotel, Houston, TX. For more information, visit www.wjta.org.

Oct. 6–9 ISSA/INTERCLEAN North America 2009, Chicago, IL. For more information, visit www.issa.com.

Oct. 8–10 2009 PWNA Convention/Fall Technical Seminar, Holiday Inn, Gurnee, IL. For more information, visit www.pwna.org.

Oct. 18–20 CETA PowerClean 2009 Trade Show and Convention, Silver Legacy Resort Casino, Reno, NV. For more information, visit www.ceta.org.

Oct. 27–30 DeckExpo 2009, side-by-side with the Remodeling Show, Indianapolis Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN. For more information, visit www.deckexpo.com.

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Feb. 2–5 World of Concrete Annual Trade Show, Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV. For more information, visit www.worldofconcrete.com.

Feb. 8–11 The Rental Show, Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL. For more information, visit www.the rentalshow.com.

Feb. 24–27 Pumper and Cleaner Environmental Expo International, Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, KY. For more information, visit www.colepublishing.com/pumpershow.