

2017-2018

CMU On-Campus Student Employee Testimonials

Office Assistant

Senior

Major: Psychology

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

"Besides allowing me to pay for my school expenses, I have a better idea of the inner workings of a graduate office. I have spoken to high school seniors about how much work goes into dealing with graduate applications and how much more the undergraduate offices must have to deal with and I've gained a few customer service skills while dealing with the needs of students who come into the office. On-campus employment has helped me appreciate the work that all of the staff goes through to make sure that the campus functions smoothly."

Student Assistant

Senior

Major: Psychology

The Cyert Center for Early Education

"Campus employment has enhanced my Carnegie Mellon experience and has helped me grow into the woman that I have always wanted to become. Campus employment taught me the importance of time management and responsibility. By working approximately 10-12 hours a week I've learned how to manage my time wisely so that I can stay on top of my studies and still have time to participate in extracurricular activities. The Cyert Center has taught me an abundance of skills which I have been able to transfer into my everyday life. I've learned the importance of communication, leadership, and patience. It is astonishing how much an individual can learn from children. I was quickly immersed into the lives of the children I worked with and instantly knew that they were now one of my top priorities. The skills I've learned within the classrooms of the Cyert Center have helped shaped my CMU career, as well as, given me lasting life skills I can apply after I graduate. I believe I am a more patient, understanding, and motivated individual because of my campus employment. Applying for a job at CMU was the greatest thing I've ever done, and I could not imagine what my life may have been had I never began employment at the Cyert Center. Working at the Cyert Center has encouraged me to further pursue a career in pediatrics and further promote the importance of education. I'm currently on the executive board of two service organizations and a member of several more."

Student Assistant

Sophomore

Major: Design

Student Affairs and Academic Services

"Being employed on campus has truly enhanced my Carnegie Mellon Experience because with the money I earn, I'm able to pay for class materials and my extracurricular activities on my own. While being a good student is my main priority, participating in extracurricular activities have been the most memorable experiences I've had at CMU. It's vital to remember that I'm able to afford these amazing experiences because of my job. Also, as for the job itself, the people at the office are so genuinely kind and caring and it makes me look forward to coming in to work every day. Working in an environment where projects are passed on from coworker to coworker, I've learned a lot about communication and working with others. I've learned how to not only listen carefully to others but also clearly communicate my ideas to my coworkers, but I've also learned how to ask for help when I need it, because I can't solve every problem on my own. Furthermore, my job often requires that I'm organized and neat (which, admittedly, I'm naturally not), so it's helped me develop more organization skills, which are helpful to have in almost any working (or non-working) situation. My campus employment has helped me not only gain invaluable skills, but also a deeper understanding and appreciation for how the university runs and the magic that happens behind the scenes which I usually would've taken for granted."

Social Media Correspondent

Senior

Major: Design

University Marketing and Communications

"My campus employment has helped me see the best of CMU through the eyes of our students and organizations passions. Being employed as the social media correspondent has allowed me to see CMU in the lens of other students. A main component of my job is to capture the essence of student organized events, interview students about their passions, and present CMU authentically through our social media channels. As social media correspondent, it's necessary to understand the brand and identify what CMU is trying to represent. Learning how to showcase visually what we are proud of through photography has helped immensely in my own career as a designer. Skills like asking the right questions that get to the heart of understanding a student or organization's passion during interviews has also helped me grow. This job has reminded me of the variety of interests the Carnegie Mellon community supports. It makes me really proud to go here!"

Supervisor and Leader**Senior****Major: Mathematics*****Academic Services, EXCEL***

"While being an EXCEL leader, I have had a more enjoyable, exciting experience at CMU, simply by leading sessions, throwing my passion into my work, and watching my students succeed, thereby being able to enjoy their own CMU experiences as well. I have developed expertise in teaching and learning theory through the initial and on-going training, and through my semesters of experience. Through my position as a supervisor, I have developed more leadership ability, by observing and advising many current and in-training leaders in SI/EXCEL. My campus employment has helped me cultivate my passion for teaching and learning by pushing my students to become independent learners and helping other leaders to do the same."

Technical Assistant**Junior****Major: Mechanical Engineering*****Department of Mechanical Engineering***

"Working on campus has allowed me to spend my time doing meaningful work and to meet and interact with students in other disciplines. Since I have started working here, I have joined several student groups I otherwise would not have joined. Coupled with my on-campus job, these opportunities have helped me to build my resume. Much of what I have done in my work is relatable to future jobs I may have. For example, I have learned techniques currently used in the industry (wafer handling, machine set-up, etc.), and have also learned how to work in a more professional setting where I need to take charge of my work. My campus employment has helped me to earn an income which I use for my living expenses and has also helped me to be more self-disciplined and responsible."

Teaching Assistant**Senior****Major: Mechanical Engineering*****Department of Mechanical Engineering***

"Working on campus has allowed me to feel more engrained into the Carnegie Mellon culture. I've met people and had experiences that I would have not otherwise had the chance to take part in. I have become far better at time management and prioritizing and I work more efficiently on outside tasks, because I know I'll have an entirely new set of tasks to accomplish at work. Being a student employee has helped me feel empowered. I am able to support myself in an apartment, buy all necessary books/materials, all without adding stress to my parents. I've also been able to gain valuable real-world office experience that I would not have had if I'd been working elsewhere. Also, I've gained seemingly simple but highly valuable skills in overall professionalism and responsibility. In closing, I think my campus employment has helped me become a well-rounded, focused, empowered individual capable of taking on a lot of work in a variety of professional settings."

Tour Guide**Senior****Major: Mechanical Engineering*****Department of Mechanical Engineering***

"My campus employment has helped me appreciate every moment and experience at CMU. My job has enhanced my CMU experience because it has requires me reflect on my time here and how much it has made me grow. Answering questions about why I chose CMU and how I've liked it so far really reminds me to be grateful for every second here, and of what I love about the school. Being a tour guide has definitely developed my public speaking, networking, and overall people skills. It's also given me experience in thinking on my feet if something goes wrong and taking care of large groups of people."

Student Assistant**Sophomore****Majors: Materials Engineering
Biomedical Engineering*****Office of Alumni Relations***

"My campus employment has helped me pick up skills that will be vital in industry, such as diligence. I think it has greatly improved my time management skills because I have to not only juggle classes, but also an on-campus job. My job has also improved my interpersonal skills because I have to communicate professionally with others in my work environment."

Resident Assistant & Career Peer Mentor
CPDC, Housing Services and Residential Education

Senior

Majors: Global & Hispanic Studies
Professional Writing

"Campus employment gave me an opportunity to earn money while gaining valuable experience that helped me land internships and full-time jobs later on. Working as a CPM, I learned a lot about professional development that I not only used to help students, but that I could apply to my own job search as well. It also helped me see how much I enjoyed working 1:1 with students and acting as a mentor, an experience that played an important role in my decision to work in education after graduating. As an RA, I've really appreciated the opportunity to form both working relationships and strong friendships with my staff and residents. Though it's sometimes a challenging role, the experience has given me ample opportunity to learn and grow. Both on-campus jobs have helped me develop mentorship and communication skills. They've taught me how to problem-solve and adapt to difficult situations. Additionally, I've learned how to manage projects and work collaboratively to achieve my goals, such as planning events in the dorm and piloting workshops for the CPDC. My campus employment has helped me grow my professional and personal network and discover what kind of working environments and careers I want to pursue after graduation."

Room Assignments Assistant
Housing Services and Residential Education

Senior

Majors: Chemical Engineering
Public Policy

"As a student, it's easy to get caught up in your own studies and work, and it's easy to forget that the rest of the CMU community exists around you. Working at Housing Services not only introduced me to some amazing people at CMU but has also shown me how much each staff member tries to help CMU students and community in any way they can, sometimes going out of their way to do so. I learned how to work with people of all ages, not just college-aged students, which is what I'm used to in my coursework and extracurricular activities. I've also gotten better at problem-solving on the fly, and I have continued to grow my communication and customer service skills through email and over the phone. My employment has helped me become more confident in my communication skills and my ability to deescalate tense situations and conflicts in customer service."