

School of Environment and Natural Resources

SUMMER 2022 GLOBAL GIFTS INTERNSHIP

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BACKGROUND: PRE-INTERNSHIP

I completed a lot of research in the internship process last year, and I ended up gaining an internship at Global Gifts.

- I gained this position through an SENR alumni that interned there a few years ago.
- I applied through LinkedIn, and I got an interview with Amy, the previous manager at Global Gifts.



Global Gifts Logo. Uniquely giving is a common phrase utilized throughout the store, as the items within global gifts truly are a unique assortment of goods.

Global Gifts is a small, non-profit store in the heart of the Short North in Columbus, Ohio. Their mission is to provide:

- Sustainable opportunities for artisans
- Safe, equitable working conditions

Through their purchasing decisions



This image illustrates some of Global Gifts' main focuses while choosing artisans and products to sell.

MY TIME AT GLOBAL GIFTS

My position title was the visual display intern, which meant that I brainstormed and enacted all of the window displays and internal displays for the store. I also:

- Worked floor shifts
- Ran the cash register
- Placed a high emphasis on customer interaction and a positive customer experience
- Maintained the store's cleanliness and organized layout
- Assisted in purchasing orders
- Logged new orders in, tagged items, and distributed them throughout the store
- Assisted in social media ideas and posts
- Gained new skills in Excel from a business perspective

These three images all highlight some of my frequent duties, and new skills that I picked up!



I am standing next to the sandwich board that I created, which was one of the projects I completed at home during my time with Global Gifts.



I made the flowers and the summer sign in this window display. It was my last display of my internship, and I did it to highlight our summer sale.



This was the first window display I worked on in my first week as an intern. It was also my introductory picture on the Global Gifts Instagram.

INTERNSHIP REFLECTION



The image above is the other side of the sandwich board I illustrated at home. This is the welcome board that went outside the store each shift.

This image is me posing with one of the new hats for an Instagram post. Global Gifts utilized their social media accounts to highlight new products, discuss events, and note store sales.

This internship related to my future career goals, as I hope to align my personal values of sustainability with that of my future company. This is the entire theme behind Global Gifts' mission, in terms of environmental, social, and economic sustainability.



For my future:

- I want to work towards another sustainable retail internship, but I hope it is more fashion focused, as that is my minor.
- My dream is to work for a company such as Reformation, Patagonia, or Djerf Avenue
- I have applied to a variety of internships, however, as I want to broaden my horizons and get as much experience as possible

Recommendations:

- Global Gifts is an incredible first-time internship experience
- One of the most useful ways to gain an internship is from connections, even those that seem meaningless can be beneficial
- Be personable!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to thank Global Gifts for this opportunity, and for allowing me to grow my skills and experience within a sustainable retail space. Amy Phillips-Gary was the manager of the store during my time as an intern, and I want to thank her for consistently teaching me new aspects of the retail world and for allowing me to express my own creativity in this position.



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