

these investments and had content that they could turn around pretty quickly,” remarked Eppes.

When talking about JA’s demand within schools and the community Eppes says, “JA is in greater demand by educators today than it’s ever been. We are more aligned with the Department of Education priorities and standards, particularly around Career and Technical Education.”

This fact alone is substantial proof that Junior Achievement is adapting to meet today’s workforce demands. JA USA has expanded their reach to the point where more than 4.8 million students per year attend some sort of JA program, with Delaware reaching 17,000 students a year on average, through partnerships with 160 schools and agencies.

Eppes was inspired to work for JA when he began participating in the original JA Company Program during his freshman year at Newark High School. At a young age, Eppes saw how JA could empower young people to truly take charge of their futures. “When I come to work every day, I am a living, breathing example of JA’s impact on the life of a young person.”



Daniel La Mastra interned for the State Chamber in the spring of 2021. He recently graduated from the University of Delaware with a degree in world history.



Chair Message

BY KATIE K. WILKINSON

»» Let’s talk about the importance of internships! At Fulton Bank, our

team is very excited about welcoming both a summer intern as well as a military intern in the coming months. Internships can provide employers and potential employees with the opportunity to “test drive” a job, a team, and an organization. In some ways it is a “no strings attached” approach to recruitment.

Let’s talk about the importance of internships!

Internship development is also a way for leaders to empower others on their team to lead and manage in a way that provides growth for the employee and skill building for the intern. This creates a “manager in training” arrangement, which can enhance responsibility and accountability for all.

How many of you can look back on the start of your career and point to an internship or a summer job that really helped launch you into – or out of – a career trajectory? My grandfather was a banker in Philadelphia, and he was my hero. I didn’t know much about banking at the time so we started to talk about it. I really believed that I wanted to follow in his footsteps. In my early college years, I landed a summer job as a bank teller with Bank of Delaware. I loved it,

and it really did start to prepare me for my current career. I learned critical soft skills around customer service, listening, communication, professional dress, and task accuracy. I interacted with so many interesting people with different backgrounds and stories and learned to navigate conflict and complaints.

During my junior year in college, I recall telling my roommate (who had no interest in banking) that I wanted to find an internship at the Federal Reserve Bank. It didn’t matter to me where it was; I just felt like that was my perfect opportunity. I was actively seeking this kind of an opportunity when suddenly my roommate ran into our room waving a newsletter from the college Career Development Office. There it was – an internship with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston! I landed it and it was truly the launchpad for my career in banking.

I’m not sure what my career path would have looked like without those opportunities. Organizations and people invested in my professional and personal development through these internships. The experiences helped me develop strong skills in communication, customer service, and listening. We need to continue to invest in such programs – as a business community and as a Delaware community committed to growth, equity, and success. Supporting apprenticeship and internship programs – like Intern Delaware – and retraining programs such as Forward Delaware, are solid, proven ways that we can invest in our best natural resource, human capital.