

About Daniel

Daniel Guerra is a Senior majoring in Construction Management with a minor in General Business. Over the past 9 months he's had the opportunity to intern with Webber as part of their Estimating & Field Operations team. His internship with the Estimating department is based off their corporate office at The Woodlands, Texas while he was assigned to the WZN IH-10 San Bernard project at Sealy, Texas over the summer. Webber is one of the largest heavy civil infrastructure companies in the state of Texas with work beginning to expand into the East Side region in states such as Virginia, Alabama, Florida, Arkansas, etc. On top of being one of the leading heavy civil infrastructure general contractors they also have operating unit, PLW Waterworks, focusing on water infrastructure.

Q: What are some of the interesting things you were able to see/do while on the job?

Working with the Estimating department I was able to get an introduction to large scale heavy civil projects by getting exposed to Pre-Construction services such as bidding, procurement, and handling vendor/subcontractor quotes. This was done by analyzing thousands of plan sheets & performing takeoffs for all scopes of work involved in a project. Upon transitioning into field operations over the summer I got to see different scopes of work being performed such as paving, structures, bridges, earthworks, drainage, erosion control, electrical, and removals/demolitions. I was also introduced to many aspects of office engineering such as developing work plans/3-week lookahead schedules, quantity tracking, labor & equipment hours allocation, tracking daily cost, performing takeoffs, subcontractor coordination/management, and daily project team/foremen meetings.

Q: What are some of the biggest things you learned during your internship?

Subcontractor Coordination is very critical in order to ensure the job is being done correctly, safely, and efficiently. The communication aspect is crucial because it mitigates the risk of falling behind due to lack of communication or/and miscommunication. Value Engineering is also a big one because although we're building a job it's also our responsibility to make sure we're staying under budget and reducing costs any way we can without affecting performance in other factors. Above all, safety should be everyone's main priority every single time you step into the jobsite. Building daily used infrastructure is a great achievement, but an even greater one is making sure everyone gets home safely every day!

Q: How did being a Sam Houston State University Engineering Technology student prepare you for this internship?

Being an engineering technology student at Sam prepared me adequately for my role in both Estimating & Field Operations by taking courses that tie in with all construction methods and procedures you deal with on the daily basis at your job site. Also, providing me with additional resources in preparation for my internships such as attending resume workshops and joining organizations like SHSU Construction Association & SHSU ETEC Ambassadors helped me improve my professional, communication, and networking skills. Overall, the ETEC department at Sam does a great job preparing their students to take on roles in companies & becoming assets in their line of work upon graduation.