How Ignition Prepared Me For A Rewarding Career

A few months before I graduated college, I received a full-time job opportunity from National Interstate Insurance Company to be an HR Representative and I gladly accepted. I transitioned to this role in the beginning of May 2022 and was able to participate in their graduate development program called "Ignition" at the start of June. This program is an intensive, month-long training and development program which was insanely helpful in setting my foundation in the insurance industry. Although I am in HR, you need at least a fundamental knowledge of your industry and how the other departments within the organization work to do your job effectively. Ignition went above and beyond to help launch my career and position me for success.

Relevant Training

One of the aspects that I found very valuable in my experience was the classroom style training. Although it was hard work, the tasks were rewarding and fulfilling because it not only allowed me to work closely with my peers, but provided a deeper understanding of how we do business as a whole. We were able to share knowledge, build friendships, network with presenters, and learn how each department works towards our mission statement. I started with no prior knowledge of the insurance industry and had no idea that National Interstate even existed. During the program, I truly felt, and still believe, that my success matters, and Ignition gave me the foundation to not only succeed but to grow.

During the Ignition program, we also attended a professional development session geared towards the DiSC assessment. I have previously taken the assessment for other internships, so I was already vaguely familiar with the process. However, I didn't realize how much my results had changed over time or how the environment that I was in played a role. The DiSC assessment was an excellent tool for me to learn how to communicate better with others, especially those with different communication styles, and allowed me to earn a greater sense of emotional intelligence.

Social Events

Beyond the classroom training, the Ignition program also had fun social events planned where my cohort built strong relationships and creating many lasting memories. My class participated in lunch & learn sessions, a customer visit, and various teambuilding activities, including trips to Top Golf, Wild Eagle Saloon & Arcade, an Akron Rubber Ducks game, and a closing dinner. We also had fun activities planned throughout our education sessions that encouraged networking and mentorship opportunities with senior leaders. Overall, I truly enjoyed being able to participate in the Ignition Program and have close connections with everyone in my cohort.

A Well Rounded Experience

Just like National Interstate's motto, "An Insurance Experience Built Around You", your experience in the Ignition program is truly built around you and your time here is what you make it. If you are hard-working, a good communicator, and want to learn, you will succeed. National Interstate wants the best from everyone and will challenge you to be great in your career, but will also provide the support and resources to ensure your success. I have never been a part of an organization quite like National Interstate and am very grateful for my experience here.