



Name: Alvin Luu
Host Organization: Michael Saunders & Company
Internship Role: Marketing & Operations
School/Major: University of Florida - Business Management

Tell us about yourself (Background, interests, career goals): I'm a rising freshman at the University of Florida from Sarasota, FL, originally from Baldwinsville, NY. I'm passionate about entrepreneurship, community service, and financial literacy. I'm privileged to serve on a few local boards for causes that I am passionate about including the Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, and Gulf Gate Library, among others. My career goal is to build a career in insurance and financial services, combining my business knowledge with my deep roots in the Sarasota community. In my free time, I enjoy golfing, grilling, and traveling.

What made you interested in the InternConnect Program?

I first heard about InternConnect at a Sarasota Chamber of Commerce board meeting — where I serve as a board member for the Chamber. The program immediately stood out as a perfect opportunity to connect with other interns in the area, grow professionally, and contribute to the Sarasota business community I care so deeply about.

What are your main responsibilities?

I'm working closely with the marketing and operations teams at Michael Saunders & Company, supporting initiatives that help drive the business forward. This includes assisting with marketing efforts, community engagement, and operational tasks that give me a well-rounded view of how a leading real estate firm functions day-to-day.

What's one skill you're hoping to develop or strengthen this summer?

I'm hoping to strengthen my ability to translate marketing strategy into measurable results — learning how to connect creative ideas to real business outcomes is something I'm eager to develop, especially as I look toward a future in insurance and financial services.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

"Your network is your net worth." Growing up in Sarasota and being involved in so many organizations, I've seen firsthand how relationships and genuine connections open doors that credentials alone never could.

What advice would you give to someone applying for this internship?

Lead with impact, not just interest. Show what you've already done in your community and how those experiences have shaped who you are. Organizations like Michael Saunders want to see initiative, so don't wait to be asked, go out and make things happen.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

In five years, I see myself working in the insurance and financial services industry, ideally working for my family's agency or holding a leadership role within an insurance company. I also plan on staying active in the community that has given me so much. Long-term, I want to be a business leader who invests back into the next generation of young professionals in Southwest Florida and beyond.