



Name: Karel Dib Larreal
Host Organization: Lighthouse Vision Loss Center
Internship Role: Human Resources Intern
School/Major: Florida State University (Political Science)

Tell us about yourself (Background, interests, career goals): I am a sophomore political science student interested in connecting with my local community through my interests in policy, healthcare, and human resources. I am planning to attend graduate school after I graduate from undergrad to be able to further my educational experience while simultaneously gaining first-hand internship experience in the fields of healthcare and policy.

What made you interested in the InternConnect Program?

What sparked my interest in the InternConnect program is the community-building aspect, from intern bonding experiences to working alongside and for local organizations. Being able to take part in the program for my second year now, Interconnect has helped me grow professionally and gain the necessary networking skills and first-hand experience to prepare me for the workforce.

What are your main responsibilities?

Throughout my internship experience, I will be able to work on human resources projects to edit important workforce documents and meet the team working in the organization. Alongside meeting the team, I will be able to shadow the services and classes offered at the organization, from technology to everyday living.

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

Throughout my internship this summer, I hope to strengthen my communication and leadership skills through working with the Human Resources team, as well as shadowing the opportunities available and provided by the nonprofit for the community in order to not only get better involved but also get hands-on experience in community-building efforts. Moreover, I hope to gain insight into leadership in the workforce and how a united team is able to carry out the organization's mission.

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

The best piece of advice that I have ever received is to "go for it." This means applying for every opportunity that I am able to come across. There have been times where I am unsure if I will get the opportunity, but taking the proactive step of applying means that you have done all you are able to do on your end and have given it a shot. Overall, this advice has carried me throughout my professional journey and is the reason I have been able to flourish professionally.

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

A piece of advice I would give someone applying to this internship is to get to know your Sarasota community. I heard about this program through being involved in a previous nonprofit in Sarasota, and it has changed my professional career and opened many doors to network with our community leaders. Going to community networking events and reaching out to the Sarasota Chamber has been able to provide priceless insight into career opportunities and development.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

In five years, I see myself graduating with my undergraduate degree and being in graduate school. With my passions and interest in political science and healthcare, I hope to have gained undergraduate internship experience and professional skills that I can take into the workforce.