
Hello. I'm Katharine Marianacci.

EDSI Intern

Katharine Marianacci was a Human Services Intern with EDSI. Here she shares the experiences, thoughts and insights she gained over the past year.

1. What were your top three favorite experiences during your EDSI internship?

The general culture was a welcoming environment. It allows the employees and clients to feel comfortable talking and sharing. Sometimes we heard very difficult stories and situations that the clients were in, so it was important to take a minute to have fun with your coworkers and relax. One of my favorite aspects was the responsibility that was placed on me. I value that I was given the opportunity to prove myself. I really liked having a mentor; I wasn't expecting to have one. It was great to have someone to rely on as my primary contact. It helped get me involved in the office, from the fun and social aspects, to taking on new tasks.

2. Name a funny moment that you had with your mentor or team.

We had a "Throwback Thursday" with baby pictures hung around the office. One person was picked each week and you had to guess who it was. They took it very seriously, but it was a lot of fun. A few people guessed mine right!

3. What skills did you learn that you weren't expecting?

I learned the importance of copying people on emails and how to function in a professional setting which related to working with the participants. With the many different backgrounds, I learned to find common ground with someone who was very different than me. I am getting my Master's degree in the counseling field and it is a very important skill to have.

4. What skills or experiences are you most proud of?

I did a lot of resume writing. I am most proud that I was able to help people to get jobs. It was fulfilling to see how resumes impacted the candidate's confidence. Seeing your skills written down on paper makes it click. The change in a person's attitude and self-perception was visible. Helping someone feel good about themselves is something that I am proud to have been a part of.

5. What would you suggest to future EDSI Interns?

The biggest advice I can give is to get involved. This is the type of environment where people are willing to help you and give you advice. That won't happen unless you show you are motivated and want to get involved. It is easy to fall into the background and wait for someone to give you something to do, but it is better to get out there and get involved.

6. Is there anything else you'd like to say about your internship at EDSI?

I had a really awesome experience for so many different reasons. After the experience I gained at EDSI, I've decided to focus on Career Counseling as I pursue my Master's degree. It is really rewarding and important work.

