Co-Op Experience at Primet

My work experience this summer at Primet was invaluable to my understanding of the responsibilities and duties involved in the industrial world. I learned ways to upscale research findings to larger production. I learned to communicate well with vendors to establish both a relationship with the company and a reliable source for a service. And most importantly, I was able to assess my career goals and define what the corporate world is leaning toward in energy research.

Primet Precision Materials is a startup company here in Ithaca whose concentration is on nanotechnology and advanced materials. One goal I have is to identify the issues that startup companies come across mainly with organization procedures and leadership. I want to understand how a small company communicate and operate in its early stages. Primet gives me this exposure. I have a strong entrepreneur desire and it was great for me to work at Primet so I was able to witness all the struggles and hard work involved in starting up a business. I am able to witness how the technical team communicates with each member and how it communicates with the business team. I understand how dependent the teams are on each other.

One of the biggest skills I have developed during this term is the ability to organize data in spreadsheets. During the course of the summer I slowly used colors and bold borders to highlight certain fields. I know this will help me improve both how I collect data and how to present the data in a colorful and visual way.
My project is both intellectually provoking and challenging. I was assigned to work with vendors to establish a method to eliminate certain steps in creating a battery material to reduce costs and time. I truly enjoyed the experience and the process in completing the project. A major advantage in working at a small company is knowing that my work will ultimately impact where the company will head in the future. Any discovery or success I have is imperative to the company’s objectives and goals.

I am very fortunate to be given a project that is very relevant to my career goal. I have decided early on to study energy resources. My project on advanced battery material helps me understand what the demands are in the energy industry. I have the opportunity to assess my career goals and determine what energy field is interesting to me. I am glad this work term confirms my choice to study energy.

Primet Precision Materials has given me the opportunity to build confidence on my ability to operate in the corporate world. There was never a time when I feel completely lost because I knew someone around me would know something about my project. This experience was truly a privilege. I am privileged to be able to work on a challenging project that relates to my career path. I am privileged to work with intelligent and kind people who cared about my project.
Co-Op Experience at Primet

My work experience this Fall at Primet was invaluable to my understanding of the responsibilities and duties involved in the industrial world. I learned to adapt to the new environment and to apply my educational skills. And most importantly, I was able to assess my career goals and define my identity. This work experience was more of a privilege than an opportunity.

Primet Precision Materials is a startup company here in Ithaca whose concentration is on nanotechnology and advanced materials. One goal I have is to understand how a corporate company communicate and operate. Primet gives me this exposure. I am able to witness how the technical team communicates with each member and how it communicates with the business team. I understand how dependent the teams are on each other. The business side needs to understand the results from the technical team to make a presentation to sell and at the same time the business side tells the technical team to experiment with various variables to gain better understanding of their products.

One of the biggest adjustments I have to make is time management. As a typical student, waking up at 7 AM is not always the most joyful thing to do. To be honest, the few weeks were definitely difficult, but as time progressed, I managed to get used to waking up early. It is strange to be awake this early especially when I walk outside and see no one in the streets. After work I have time to talk with friends and do things that would never be possible over the
semester. I enjoy the relaxed life filled with badminton and tennis games with friends. This aspect of the Co-op is definitely a bonus on top of work.

My project is both intellectually provoking and challenging. I was assigned to work with synthesizing an advanced battery material using a new technique. I truly enjoyed the experience and process involved from day one. One huge advantage while working in a small company is the priority and the impact of my work to the company. Any discovery or success I have is imperative to the company's objectives and goals. Collaboration is also a key advantage of working at Primet. Everyone on the technical and business teams knows what project I am working on. When I need help I can turn my head to my supervisor or the engineers right next to me. Because my project is something they are very familiar with, any questions are discussed fully and respectfully. As a consequence, one essential skill I learned is communication.

I am very fortunate to be given a project that is very relevant to my career goal. I have decided early on to study energy resources. My project on advanced battery material helps me understand what roles engineers have on the development of batteries and in the field of energy in general. I have the opportunity to assess my career goals and finally decide whether or not this career is right for me. This work term alone confirms my choice in my career. I know now that this career path is something I am willing to commit to and something I will enjoy in my entire life. I am glad to figure this out this early.

Another important lesson I get out of this Co-op is realizing who I am and what I am capable of. One fear I have is whether or not I will have enough skills to work on a project on a corporate scale where the tasks are harder and solutions are never complete. I learned that if I put work and commitment to a project I will be able to get some results. I am glad that Cornell has taught me to work hard. I also glad for my work experience at home at my restaurant where
the hours I put in there have helped me make the translation to this job much easier. I did not have to use much of my academic material to understand my project. The only ability of good use is the ability to read and process information from references and articles; and this is the one skill that I obtained from doing coursework. Most of college life is self study. I do not think any other preparation is needed except for commitment to put effort in whatever project that is on hand.

Primet Precision Materials has given me the opportunity to build confidence on my ability to operate in any situation. There was never a time when I feel completely lost because I knew someone around me would know something about my project. This experience is truly a privilege. I am privileged to be able to work on a challenging project that relates to my career path. I am privileged to work with intelligent and kind people who cared about my project. I am glad I can return next summer to start my second term.