Job Assignment Essay – Work Term One

Coming to Tangibl, I had never had any AutoCAD experience, so the first few days of my fall term, I was oriented on basic AutoCAD 2009 according to the company’s standards. In the following days I got a better hang of the software as far as it is used within Tangibl’s CAD department. I also learned their organization scheme. While I didn’t have an assigned mentor, I usually went to Dawn or Red, both CAD workers, with any questions I had. Jimmy was also responsible for giving me a lot of my work, so if I had a question regarding the job I was working on, I would usually go to him.

Most of what I was responsible for was to take the drawings that were marked up and make the changes on AutoCAD. The drawings could be anything from a wiring diagram to a plan view of the first floor lighting. I worked on all kinds of civil and electrical drawings from topics ranging from pump stations to electrical equipment. There were other jobs I performed as well, I did a lot of organization of things like submittal logs, keeping track of the drawings and documents that we received from clients. I also wrote up several “transmittals.” They were mostly a cover sheet of what we were sending them as well as a letter being a little more specific about the package. I was also able to call clients several times to ask them to give us a reference drawing we needed to complete something or to ask for clarification on something they wanted us to do. One of the things it was most interesting to see was how a contracting company works.
From what I’ve seen of other companies it does seem to function a little differently. For one, there’s not as smooth a work flow. As my coworkers would tell me all the time, “it’s either feast of famine with work around here.” And it’s true, there were absolutely times where deadline upon deadline was looming, and others where things were taken at a more relaxed pace. Tangibly was able to take a variety of different jobs. While each one was different from the previous, there were some that were radically different, and at least from my perspective, there were many opportunities for us to learn about an aspect of AutoCAD we’d never used before. For example, one project incorporated a lot of 3-D AutoCAD, and dealing with that in a professional setting was something the people working with it hadn’t done before.

While I didn’t have any work related specifically to my Materials Science & Engineering background, I feel that I did learn about how a small engineering contracting company works and it was a good introduction to the business world in general. I learned the proper ways to approach a boss or mentor, CAD system filing and how to keep the document system from getting too muddled, to mention a few.

As far as my living situation, I’m renting a room in a house about a 10-15 minute drive away. I found the listing on a website for a community college in the area where people will post residency openings. The price was very reasonable and in a good location. I live with a few others who have all been friendly and nice throughout my stay in Langhorne. The location itself is also very convenient, being close enough to my home in New Jersey that I can visit with I want/need to, but also very close to the colleges of friends from home and the city of Philadelphia itself. So while there’s not a lot to do in the Langhorne area, it’s very close to lots of active places.