



McKinsey Rakestraw – Summer 2024 Engineering Intern

Meet McKinsey Rakestraw, Press Glass Inc.'s Summer 2024 Engineering Intern! McKinsey will be entering her senior year at ECU this fall to complete her Industrial and Systems Engineering degree.

During her internship McKinsey gathered invaluable professional experience and applied her education in real life situations. On a typical workday she starts by talks with her manager and other members of the team about their plans for the day and if they want her to be involved. During her downtime, she continued working on other ongoing projects.

A recent project McKinsey worked on was calculating the right ratio of height and width for glass to move thorough the process vertically rather than the standard horizontal orientation. Knowledge in statics played a key role in her ability to help the team.

Hard Skills Development: Being pushed beyond your comfort zone is not uncommon in the workplace and McKinsey was pushed outside of her comfort zone by needing to become more familiar with Excel. She noted that, "We used it some in school, but normally the file and equations were set up for us by our teacher." In the cases where she had to use it in her daily work, she needed to create the file from start to finish and she noted working through figuring out the application was fun.

Soft Skills Development: McKinsey also noted the importance of communication to her work and being willing to learn. She talked about at first feeling like there could be the expectation to know everything, but quickly learned that asking questions was the best way to improve and that those around her enjoyed training and helping her.

Challenges: Every new endeavor comes with challenges and "Learning how to communicate with other people who already speak the glass language," was one of McKinsey's challenges along with being completely new to the glass industry. She has learned a lot in her short time with us and now confuses her friends and family when explaining her projects using "the glass language" that was foreign to her only a few short months ago.

Reflection: As McKinsey reflected on her experience with us at Press Glass, she noted liking the people and the greatest lesson she has learned was "not being afraid to ask questions" and it is important to have the drive to find the answers. "If you ask one person and they do not have the answer, then don't give up if you do not get the answer from the first person you ask," McKinsey said.

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