

19-year-old Discovers Construction Career through CEFGA Intern Program

Kyle Dalton is a 19-year-old freshman in his first semester at Southern Polytechnic State University. Dalton first took an interest in construction his sophomore year at Centennial High School and is now on his way to a career in Construction Management.

Dalton took a technology class his freshman year of high school because that was the closest thing to construction offered at Centennial, but sophomore year is when he began to build things. “I built bridges out of Balsa wood and eventually started building things like tree houses for friends,” Dalton recalled.

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The offer that Dalton accepted was from Austin Foster at Construction Ahead, a remodeling contractor. Dalton chose Construction Ahead because, “it sounded more interesting and hands-on.”

During his internship this past summer, Dalton was exposed to many areas of Construction Ahead's business. "Kyle was our floater. He was assigned to different supervisors throughout his internship and did tasks like interior trim, framing, footing and concrete," said Foster.

"I did framing and a lot of earth work – everything was fun there," said Dalton. He said that the best part of his internship was meeting and working with all the people at Construction Ahead. "They knew everything about everything and knew how to do it so well."

According to Foster, Dalton was "very eager to learn and that was what was so nice about him. He asked a lot of questions, so we gave a lot of answers." Right now, Dalton is learning even more at Southern Polytechnic State University. He's currently taking core curriculum classes such as Math and English, but will soon progress into courses more involved with his major.

"I wasn't planning on majoring in construction until I worked with all the guys at Construction Ahead and realized that I loved the work," said Dalton. When asked what he likes most about his chosen career, Dalton said, "I like it all. I enjoy both the building and design aspects of construction."

Dalton hopes to graduate Southern Polytechnic State University with a degree in Construction in the spring of 2011. When asked what his future holds, Dalton said, "I'd like to see myself in Austin's position one day. He runs the company, makes good money and still knows the trade – that's just a cool job." Dalton also said that he'd love to work for Austin Foster again at Construction Ahead after graduation if there is a position available.

While Foster may not be quite ready to give up his position, he would be willing to give Dalton another job. "I told Kyle on his last day that he has plenty of work here during holidays and summer vacation until he's out of school." There's not really a better endorsement than that.

CEFGA – the Construction Education Foundation of Georgia – is a nonprofit organization supported by leading construction companies and trade associations, working to promote careers in the construction industry. This success story was written by freelance writer Heather Anderson. For more information contact Nicole Scott, CEFGA, at 678-889-4445, ext. 304, or visit www.cefga.org