The BTE Experience: “In Their Own Words”

✧ Sindura Reddy, Silicon Valley, CA BTE, Age 17

In school, you are taught the scientific method: ask a question, construct a hypothesis, set up a controlled experiment, collect data, and analyze your results. You do lab experiments, but you strictly adhere to the procedure and you know how your results should turn out. These are helpful learning tools, but they are no match to actually creating and testing an experiment on a large scale in a real company lab. During my work at LifeScan, I was able to work on a study of the solubility of a chemical called horseradish peroxidase (HRPO), which is used as one of the coatings on a test strip for the SureStep glucose meter. In reality, you don’t always know what the results will be or what the future includes. My experience with BTE has shown me this. I may not always know what the results will be, but that should not stop me from seizing opportunities or experimenting in life.

This internship has not only satisfied, but increased my desire to learn and solve problems. I believe the willingness and motivation to learn and deepen one’s knowledge should reside with them throughout their life. I have learned a great deal. What I have learned and experienced during my internship affects me not only in the workplace but also at home and in my community, and will help me in future education.

All the skills one gains through this program cannot be taught in a classroom, but can only be acquired through an opportunity like BTE. It gave me the opportunity to fast-forward my life and see what I could possibly be doing in the future. This is a rare opportunity where I am able to see all the aspects of a career and observe other employees’ careers around me. The work I have done so far and will continue to do until the end of the internship makes a difference in the company’s production. Overall, the BTE program gives interns the satisfaction of being part of a large company whose goal is to help others.

✧ Robert Anders, Solono County, CA BTE, Age 16

BTE has already helped me to become much more organized in my work and daily life. I have also learned of the importance of being a good leader to my fellow classmates. Our BTE mentors seem to genuinely want each and every one of us to follow our dreams and they want us to push ourselves to the limits, even when we feel we have utterly failed. The BTE program has been great to us this year. Giving words of encouragement and stories of their own success against the overwhelming odds against them, our mentors help us to see that anything is possible, and give us a hand to guide us down the path that will lead us there.
Through the Bridge to Employment program I have learned many new skills while improving many that I already possessed, including my team working skills along with my public speaking skills. I have also made many new friends while improving my self-confidence in doing things that I had not done before and also in meeting new people. I plan to use this information that I have learned from the program in my future career and the rest of my life. I plan to become a Biomedical Engineer and hope to attend Brigham Young University and, later, Cornell University for my master’s. I definitely feel that this program will help me reach my goals as it has already helped me in my life. I have been able to see what I want to do with the rest of my life and what it will take to get there. I have made new friends and have new leaders around me that I know have my best interest at heart and will help me succeed.

This program has had a major impact on my life and where I am going to go in the future. It has helped me to have more confidence in what I am doing. This program has shown me things that I would not have seen otherwise. The greatest impact that the program has had on me is the new knowledge and skills that I have developed. I have really been able to explore new health and science careers that I had not known about. Having Johnson & Johnson employees’ act as our mentors for this time in the program is a great asset. I feel that having someone there that knows what it will take to fulfill my goals will be a great help to me in my future, especially since my mentor is part of the career field that I plan to go into.

Through the BTE program, I have developed numerous skills and behaviors as well as expanded my knowledge base. Some skills I have gained are the soft skills and communication skills. We utilize these skills to better interact with people in order to build a better and healthier relationship with co-workers and business acquaintances. We developed signs to show that we are listening, such as eye contact and focusing. We were taught how to change our tone and expression, to strengthen our meaning and to get the point across without offending anyone when speaking. I can use these skills when talking to or working with people, when presenting to a group, during interviews and other day-to-day interactions. These skills are invaluable and will be a constant benefit for the rest of my life.

BTE has had a major impact on me. The greatest impact is that it has is captured my interest in the medical field more than I ever thought possible. BTE has opened more doors and has given me options that I will find very useful in the future. It has changed the way I look at careers and how I interact with people. It has given me the opportunity to shadow and closely observe professions and provided me with experiences that otherwise would not have been available to me.

I personally never even considered going into the medical field before I became a part of the Bridge to Employment program. Now every time we go to a different medical site, I become more and more interested in the medical field. This program has opened up experiences and opportunities to me that are normally not available to high school students.