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What was the first career move you made after graduating?

The economic climate last year was not the best, so looking for a position was not an easy task. I had lofty ideals of what my first job would look like but had to ultimately take a step back and approach the job search differently. I asked myself the basic questions. "Where do you see yourself in 2 years? What steps can you take now to get to that goal?" As a result, after graduation, I took a position as Campaign Director for Grassroots Voter Outreach and moved to Philadelphia because I knew I had a greater chance of reaching my long term goals if I moved to a city and started networking.

What steps did you take in getting your present position?

I knew going into my senior year that I wanted at least my first two years out of College to be dedicated to service so, after moving to Philadelphia, I began reading organization profiles on Idealist.com and educating myself on their organization culture and mission. That is how I stumbled upon Global Citizen. I read the organization mission and visited the website to see what service opportunities they had planned for the summer. They initially did not have a position available at the beginning of the summer when I was browsing their website, but I became interested enough to return to the site and was blessed enough to find a position posted in late June. Because of my frequent visits to their website, I learned a great deal about the organization and proved to be the ideal candidate for the position just based on my knowledge of their events and goals.

What are the most rewarding aspects of your current position?

One of the most rewarding aspects of my current position is spending time connecting people with opportunities to become civically engaged in their communities. I am a big believer in servant leadership so it brings me great joy to connect corporate employees to an opportunity to walk the walk when it comes to service. I love that I can give people the opportunity to impact lives in their own backyards.

What role did attending Messiah play in your career path?

There is a great blog circulating the Messiah College networks that speaks very clearly to the impact Messiah has had in my life. Though the blog entry focuses on Messiah's soccer culture, I think the assessment is true to general Messiah culture. In this blog entry Jay McDermond says simply, the reason why messiah athletes are exceptional is "The fact that they play FOR Jesus...they play as if his name, not theirs, is on the line". I'd like to argue that Messiah STUDENTS are exceptional because they live life for Jesus; they proceed as if his name, not theirs, is on the line. I think that is the role that Messiah has played in my career path. Messiah has re-instilled in me what my parents have spent my entire life trying to teach me and because of that, I know that I live my life as if HIS name is on the line. As a result, I spend my time trying to address the needs of those around me and making sure that God is glorified in all that I do.

What advice would you give to a current Messiah student?

I know a lot of college students don't start looking for jobs until their spring semester of their senior year...don't do that! It is seriously never too soon to start planning and looking for a job. When you plan ahead, you will be rewarded. If you are a sophomore or a junior, start looking at companies and get an idea of what opportunities are available for you. This will give you an opportunity to start getting the experiences and internships to build your resume to fit the position you want. And of course, put God first! Before you start this job hunt process, pray about it and surrender everything to God. Once you've done that, all you need to do is put your best foot forward and God will do the rest.