

Gonzalo Robledo

Written by: Kira Gangbin

Gonzalo is a current Fresno State student that is majoring in Construction Management and minoring in General Business. He is doing an internship at PCL Construction in LA this summer, summer of 2019. He has plans to graduate Spring of 2020.

Kira Gangbin: What have you enjoyed most about the Construction Management program?

Gonzalo Robledo: I enjoyed getting to know all of the faculty and students in the program. We are more like a family, not classmates. I also enjoy all the trips, and activities offered by the program.



Kira: What experiences, knowledge, or skills have you learned/ been able to apply in professional work setting (or hope to)?

Gonzalo: I have learned a lot. Both in the construction side but also in the management/ business side as well. I have learned to incorporate my knowledge of bluebeam and estimating into the work I have performed for my internships, but also letter, memo, and e-mail writing from my BA 104 class.

Kira: What advice would you give to your freshman self?

Gonzalo: The best advice I can give to an incoming freshman is to get involved as early as possible. Reno, company interviews, and networking with students in the program, faculty, and industry members are all critical steps to success. At first change can be scary and intimidating but you'll adjust to it and it will be well worth it in the end.

Kira: Who inspired you to pursue this career and why?

Gonzalo: My high school teacher from Granite Hills in Porterville, California inspired me to pursue this career. He also graduated from Fresno State with a Bachelor's in Construction Management, but ultimately my parents inspired me to pursue any form of degree. If it was not for their hard work and dedication, I would not be where I am today. Not only do I feel like I'm pursuing this degree for myself, but I also feel like I am pursuing this for them as well. As a family, we have come a long way, and I could not be more thankful for them and all their sacrifices so I can continue my education.

Kira: What is your favorite part of the CM program?

Gonzalo: My favorite part of the program has to be the Reno competition. I am honored to represent Fresno State and who we are as Bulldogs in a competition setting. I love to compete and show everyone who we are and what we have to offer.

Kira: What do you hope to do with your degree out of college?

Gonzalo: I hope to either move to LA, the Bay Area, San Diego, Las Vegas, or possibly stay in the valley for some time and work for a General Contractor.

Kira: Who has been your biggest supporter?

Gonzalo: My parents. Since I have graduated high school in 2014 and college in 2017 with an Associate's degree, they have truly been the only people who have stuck by my side through thick and thin. They continue to support me and my education everyday. I will forever love both of them and be thankful for everything they have done.

Kira: Where did you do your internship?

Gonzalo: I did my internship for PCL Construction in LA. I worked as a Field Engineer Intern at the \$1 billion LAX ConRAC project that is to be completed in 2023.



Kira: What has been your favorite part of your internship?

Gonzalo: My favorite part of my internship so far was learning the roles of a Field Engineer / Office Engineer / Project Manager / Estimator and just being out on the site on a daily basis. I also enjoyed meeting new people and networking with industry members.

Kira: Was there a reason you decided to do an internship with this company?

Gonzalo: There is no specific reason besides knowing that they were in a big city which really made me consider them. I personally believe working in a big city with a big General Contractor will give you more experience

Kira: What is the most valuable thing you have learned while doing your internship?

Gonzalo: The most valuable thing that I have learned is that even though you plan the project to go in a specific way, there are possibilities that it will not go as planned. When that happens you need to find solutions quickly and make tough decisions to still be on schedule, and optimize cost efficiency.

Kira: Do you have any suggestions for getting an internship?

Gonzalo: The best way to obtain an internship is simply selling yourself. Go to EVERY company interview, *even if you're a freshman with no experience*. These companies know what they're looking for. They are not expecting to find an individual with expert knowledge in construction. They want a young, fresh, and determined individual who is serious about learning. All of these companies want to teach you as much as possible to hopefully hire you full time when you do graduate. Also if you don't get a call back, at least you're exposing yourself and putting your name out there while also obtaining interview experience. To maximize your chances of getting an internship you MUST GET INVOLVED. Like I said earlier, join clubs, a Reno Team, Events, Field trips, etc. This shows your dedication and drive to learn.

Kira: Do you have any suggestions for becoming acclimated to the internship environment?

Gonzalo: Step out of your comfort zone. As a young person myself it was very intimidating working with a lot of older people. Just keep one thing in mind. Everyone is human. Talk, communicate, network. Not only will this help you become comfortable with your co workers, but you will also be further considered as a full time hire. Also, ask A LOT of questions. Ask the questions now, so when you do graduate you don't need to ask the questions when you are working full-time.

Kira: Do you have any suggestions for doing an internship that is far from home?

Gonzalo: Personally I love change and trying new things. Therefore it was easy for me to adjust to a new environment because that's what I wanted. For someone who is shy and not open to something new, I understand it's tough and sometimes even scary, but it's always great to try new things. You'll meet new people, make new friends, and ultimately experience new things that you would never have thought of experiencing. Whether it's a personal experience or experience to advance your knowledge and career, there is more positive than negative when it comes to working in a place far from home.

Kira: Any final comments relating to your internship?

Gonzalo: Just give it all that you have. Show your supervisors that you are worthy of learning and potentially becoming a full-time hire. At the end of the internship you want to leave a long lasting impression. Instead of receiving a "goodbye" from your supervisors, strive for a "we don't want to see you leave." That way you know that you made an impact, and that they really need and want you to be apart of the team.

