

Brian Jackson

Hometown: Fargo, ND

School: ND State University

Internship: Steele Ozone & Kidder County Press

Going into my work at the Steele Ozone & Kidder County Press, I had only classroom concepts of what writing to a mass audience was really about, with little to no real application of these skills. Thus, the experience given to me by Paul Erdelt and his Staff proved to be invaluable to both my personal resume and professional development. Although disorganized and chaotic at times, the opportunity to step my feet into the waters of professional development and publishing is an experience that I would not have traded for the world.

Being a local of the Fargo area comes with its own level of differences to the locals of Steele and neighboring towns of Kidder County. While some may argue the importance of worldly travels and global perspective, I would personally ask those individuals if they had ever experienced the small-town way of life. Although quite different from the day to day doings of my usual routine in Fargo, I found the small-town attitude to be both refreshing and honest. At times hard to understand from my own personal perspective, its straightforwardness and honesty was something that couldn't be replicated in any metropolitan environment.

Throughout my summer experience I was given the opportunity to implement my classroom principles into practice with a weekly story in the local paper, where I was able to interview locals of the area and highlight their importance to the surrounding communities. This gave my job a sense of purpose, to deliver the actions of beneficial individuals to the residents of Kidder County. I thoroughly enjoyed this aspect of my interning as it allowed me to first, gain a better understanding of the people I am surrounded by and two, help to inform the community of what they are doing for the community.

My experiences may have been newspaper and business focused, however that did not mean that they are the only experiences that I was offered, far from it actually. In my many ventures with Mr. Erdelt, I was given experience in: sales, property management, landscaping, printing/print jobs, customer service, North Dakota history, cattle working, public relations, and social media management. While that may seem to be quite the lengthy and incredulous resume, those that know Mr. Erdelt personally would have no hassle in believing this.

Overall, my experiences in Steele, North Dakota were some that I found to be of utmost importance to my personal and professional development. I would like to personally thank those that helped to welcome me into the community both in and out of the Ozone. Especially thanks to Paul Erdelt, his family, and his team for treating with me with such kindness throughout these summer months. I will both miss and cherish my time spent in Kidder county and with its people. However I look forward to carrying the lessons and values that I have been able to attain here onward into life and am excited for the experiences to come.