

Outlook

Internship Program Report

Like many organizations these days, Glenair is choosing to focus quite a bit of our philanthropic work in support of internship opportunities for students. While our factory interns come from all walks of life and educational institutions, there is one group in particular — high school students from Verbum Dei — that deserve a little extra attention from the team. Verbum Dei Jesuit High School is located here in Los Angeles and delivers a one-of-a-kind college preparatory curriculum with a proven track-record of success.

Unique to Verbum Dei, all students matriculate through four years of a Work Study Program that places them in real-world work and community service internships. An activity which — combined with rigorous classroom work — produces a student body uniquely qualified to succeed in college and indeed throughout life. We are currently hosting just a small number of Verbum Dei students at Glenair, but have found them to be excellent learners and successful participants during their time at the factory.

Jesuit education in America is well known for academic excellence and the quality of its graduates. So it may be that our success with Verbum Dei students is not so extraordinary. Perhaps there is nothing special here to report? But consider this: Verbum Dei is located in the urban ghetto known as Watts, and their student body is made up entirely of inner-city youth from some of the poorest and saddest neighborhoods in Los Angeles. On average, freshmen students enter the school fully two years below grade-level in reading, writing and math. It is nevertheless the singular objective of Verbum Dei — in spite of these circumstances — to be the best college preparatory school in Los Angeles. Or as they put it,

“Our mission is to graduate seniors fully capable of meeting college-level standards *and* equipped with the temperament and character they need to truly succeed in life.”

To this end, the school tracks graduation rates, college acceptance and commitment rates — and to the extent possible — the career success of its graduates. And boy are they making a difference! A difference we are happy to contribute to — in our small way — in sincere hopes of a brighter future for these deserving kids.

Chris Toomey

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