

SUMMERWORKS SUCCESS: JACOBI L.

PROJECT LEDO: LEAD INSTRUCTOR



**"This work experience has helped me overcome a lot of depression and hopelessness around employment."
-Jacobi L.**

I learned about SummerWorks through my career coach at POIC. I honestly thought it was going to be a lot of crap jobs, or work no one really wants to do. However, I'm actually doing something interesting and contributing to the workflow.

I've had a couple jobs before SummerWorks. A few years ago, I worked in a warehouse. It was a tough job; I was on my feet a lot, and it was pretty fast-paced. I was overworked, doing about 50 hours a week which resulted in my mental health worsening, and I ended up losing the first apartment I had. It's a lot better at my SummerWorks job at Project LEDO. I no longer have to push through tiredness or hunger in order to work. I also get to use my academic skills so much more.

I wanted to work at Project LEDO because the job description was to facilitate STEM learning environments and I'm really into science. Getting to do something I really enjoy has been nice and refreshing. I liked playing with LEGOS a lot as a kid. That, plus my computer skills, have aided me well at Project LEDO.

I've been able to work on office skills like making spreadsheets and slideshows, and I'm learning how to work with kids. It's important to think through the different levels of understanding they might have. It's been cool being able to explain science to young kids.

Each day I'll check in with my supervisor to see what they need help with. Usually, I'll build curriculum on my laptop. We have an all-staff meeting on Tuesdays where we have a chance to share our progress and ideas with the rest of the team. I'll end the day researching topics to teach and getting LEGOS set up for the kids.

A highlight of my experience was attending a volunteer event at Lam Research, which is a company that makes machines to create microchips. Networking there was great, and being on their campus was really awesome—it's "top secret" and I got to see it all! This is something I never would have had the opportunity to do without SummerWorks.

Being able to work, have a routine, and be more financially secure has been amazing. I get to show my value here and that is really empowering. We've been given so much information about growth in the STEM field. Having this on my resume gives me confidence that I will be able to find a long-term job that I will love.



Photos by Sean Bascom



This program is financed in whole or in part with funds provided through Worksystems from the U.S. Department of Labor, State of Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission, City of Portland, Multnomah County, Prosper Portland, and TriMet. In accordance with Federal Law no person shall be discriminated against or denied benefits as a participant, administrator or staff based on age, disability, sex (including gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and pregnancy or childbirth), race/ethnicity, national origin (including limited English proficiency), citizenship or status as a lawfully admitted immigrant authorized to work in the United States, political affiliation or religious belief. Providers are an equal opportunity program/employer. Auxiliary aids are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. TTY 1-800-735-2900. To place a free relay call in Oregon, dial 711.