

SUMMERWORKS SUCCESS: MALLORY

NEW AVENUES INK: SCREENPRINTING INTERN



"I quickly began to look forward to working at a place where I feel valued and seen."

-Mallory

Prior to SummerWorks, I've had a handful of jobs; a majority of them I didn't enjoy, or they didn't last longer than 6 months. I learned about SummerWorks through POIC, and I was expecting another short-term job I wouldn't enjoy. Instead, I ended up finding a career path that I love with the most supportive staff at New Avenues INK. I've wanted to try screen printing for a while, and I'm so grateful to have this opportunity. We're encouraged to experiment with our own art and learn more about the process of making a print, and I'm really proud of my creativity. I also wanted to try new things and push myself to be more consistent in how I show up to a workplace.

Through this experience, I've learned how crucial it is to stay levelheaded. Things will go wrong—very rarely will a print job go perfectly—but if you can stay focused on the positive rather than the negative, things definitely work out in the end. Attention to detail is everything in screen printing. We all try to make things fun and not take it all too seriously. We are all still learning and it's not worth having a ruined day over a T-shirt.

My coworkers and I have even started adding faces and names to the machines in the shop.

I am so proud of how I have built positive relationships with my superiors. I feel so supported and eager to come to work and collaborate. It is huge for me to be able to make mistakes and own up to them knowing that it's a chance to learn.

I am in such a better spot now than I was 3 months ago. I can see myself doing screen printing for a long time—and the good news is I will be! Following my SummerWorks experience, I was hired as a junior apprentice for New Avenues INK.



Photos by Sean Bascom



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