

Chris Wasden

## **DJ Powers Internship Summer 2015**

This summer I was an intern for DJ Powers, an international logistics and freight forwarding company based out of my hometown Savannah, Ga. DJ Powers focuses on door to door freight forwarding, meaning moving a good or commodity from anywhere in the world by truck, boat, plane, or train to anywhere else in the world. The main thing that sets DJ Powers apart from its competition is the willingness to handle multiple phases of a product's shipment, rather than simply arranging for ocean freight, this involves multiple people handling the product which increases the difficulty of the task ten fold.

As an intern with DJ Powers I was in an interesting spot, as one of the main things they do is to direct data entry into shipping and US customs forms. One mistake of a something as simple as an incorrect decimal point on a form like this could cost the company thousands of dollars or even have their shipment confiscated by customs. This type of data entry takes over a year of training, so for my short internship it became obvious that I would not be able to work alone. I spent most of my days doing research for the customs side of the business, reading

up on old cases or combing through current laws to find out how to get a certain good in or out of the country legally and with the correct classification. Other days I shadowed different departments in the office, spending a day on the imports side and a day in exports.

This internship taught me a great deal about the shipping and logistics business, and also a lot about the laws and regulations surrounding certain items being shipped into or out of the country. One of my main projects during this internship, and probably what I found most interesting, was when I had to figure out how to get a container full of onions from Peru into the US. This required three levels of US regulatory agencies, as well as scheduling a customs inspection, and securing a refrigerated container or a “reefer” container. I also had to secure shipping and trucking by getting quotes from different companies and figuring out which option was not only the cheapest, but also the most reliable as onions are a perishable good.

This internship affected my career goals by letting me know that I do not want to spend my days sitting behind a computer screen typing in numbers. I already knew this, but doing it for a few days

really reassured me. I really enjoyed the customs and laws surrounding import and export, which may lead me to explore the legal field more than I had previously. I learned a great deal from this internship about the way products move across the globe and this will no doubt help me with my pursuit of international business.