

Kierrah Holliday: “Rockport-Fulton, A Small Beach Town”

I did my summer 2016 internship in Rockport, Texas, a small beach town not too far from Corpus Christi. The primary goal of the Internship Program for the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce was to assist Chamber Staff in all meetings and programs, and at the same time help students learn what a Chamber of Commerce is and how important they are to the community. During my time in Rockport, I met the Mayor of the town, the chief officer, all the city officials, and many others.



I had to complete a 10-item spreadsheet of projects. The spreadsheet included designing, implementing and interpreting a membership Survey, putting together an Economic Development Council Brochure, updates, logos added to the newly designed website, tackling our Network Wednesdays including handling the coordination, marketing and leadership, speaking at the event each week, minutes of meetings and photos just to name a few.



This experience for me personally was the best get away from college. To my friends and family, I considered it and extended working vacation. It great way for me to get a glimpse of what working in the real world would be like. I've never experienced what a true 8-5 job was like until working for the chamber. I learned a lot about myself and the working world and what it takes to run all sorts of business. There is a lot of hard work to keep businesses going and running smoothly. I learned a lot from the many meetings I attended throughout the community.

All I can say is keeping the community running smoothly is no easy task at hand but the town of Rockport-Fulton does it very well. I have never been in a town so friendly and the people are so inviting into their community. One thing I learned about this rural community that I never knew before the importance of the history. There were many historic sites that are huge in the town that is very important. In this town especially they take a lot of pride in their visitors. Rockport-Fulton is mostly a tourist town so a lot of their income comes from people all over the United States and during the winter Europe. What had the biggest impact on me was the calmness of the city. I'm originally from Houston where this is always something on, so to be in a town so quiet was a pleasant experience. I also enjoyed living by water and right off a lake, and driving past the beach every day just to get to work. Waking up, going to bed, watching the sunrise, and set was the ultimate highlight of my trip. I've always loved going to the beach but nothing compared to living on an actual lake in a beach house during the summer.



For more information regarding the Texas Rural Internship program, please contact Dr. Shannon Lane at slane@shsu.edu or by phone at 936-294-4380

