

The University of South Carolina 2015 Outstanding Employer Award

What qualities, abilities, and supervisory skills of your employer/supervisor stood out to you the most?

The Technetics site works hard to create an environment that fosters growth and learning. They offer tuition reimbursement to help with educational goals, product training to further career goals, and offsite 'soft skills' training and team-building exercises to enhance the group dynamic. For fitness and health goals, they have an on-site gym with daily fitness classes, a pedometer monitoring program, and weight loss competitions.

More important than all of the perks, though, is the atmosphere they have created of respect and learning. Whenever I ask for information, whether it is from a manager or a production associate, I always get that person's full attention and any background that I may need to help me. In addition, when I am working on the floor, I usually get a few genuine questions about the test I'm performing and why it is being done. I have encountered very few employees who are not genuinely interested in their work and the work of others. All of this contributes to an incredible environment to which I look forward to contributing.



What training or other support did your employer provide to create a positive/welcoming environment?

From the first day, I have been treated with respect and my ideas have been met with appreciation. Even though I was only in the first year of engineering school, I felt like my contributions were appreciated. When I am asked to perform a task, I get an explanation not only of the task being requested but the reason for the task so that I know what I'm doing and why I'm doing it. If I think of another way to complete the task, my suggestions are met with respect and consideration.

Describe the employer's contributions to your professional development. How has the employer helped prepare you for future success?

My supervisor believes in preserving a work-life balance not only for himself but also his employees. I believe that this kind of attitude creates better employees and more enthusiasm in the workplace. When I had the opportunity to work in a research lab with one of my professors, my supervisor encouraged me to take the opportunity even though it would mean fewer hours with Technetics. They take the long view towards what will be valuable, not just immediate needs. To this end, I am encouraged to take advantage of any training that I think would be valuable. I have heard of many internships where the intern spends all day making copies or entering data. My supervisor has always gone out of his way to make sure I am not treated like "only an intern."

How did the employer demonstrate that you were valued as an employee?

The Technetics site has created an atmosphere of learning and respect. That atmosphere exists not only for the full-time employees but for the temporary employees and the interns. My contributions have been respected and valued even as an intern from the very first day. This type of environment makes you want to contribute more because you know it will be appreciated. I also meet regularly with my supervisor to make sure my work is challenging enough and that the work is value-added for me.

Why does this employer deserve to be named the "Outstanding Co-op or CIP Intern Employer"?

The environment of learning, respect, and collaboration that Technetics has created is not common. Sometimes, a division will collaborate well or a work group will enjoy each other's company after hours. However, this site has managed to create an amazing atmosphere where ideas are shared and appreciated, co-workers are valued and respected, and employees can collaborate effectively across departments and teams. I feel very privileged to be a part of this community!