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I am a senior at WCU in Cullowhee, NC. I never really knew much about the PHS until the annual EHOPAC meeting was held at the university in the fall of 2007. Several officers came into the class room and spoke to us on what exactly it is they do on a daily basis. This really grabbed my attention. Later on that evening we all got the opportunity to have a meet and greet session with the officers. I must say that it was such a relief being able to approach officers of all ranks and having them give you their undivided attention. This gave all the students the chance to ask questions about the Corps that they were hesitant to ask in the class setting. All of my queries were answered so I decided to apply.

Once I found out that I had been accepted I knew this was going to be a great experience for me. The Opelousas Field Office of the IHS in Louisiana provided me with this opportunity. I must say that they didn't let me down. Everyone in the office welcomed me in and treated me with the so much respect. It really helped me in the transitioning phase from NC to LA.

We started out the summer performing inspections on casinos and hotels for the local tribes. This gave me the chance to use and apply what I had learned in the classroom. I felt as though I was very prepared to for the inspections, but knew I still had much to learn. My supervisor provided me with so much more knowledge about how to approach and confront individuals when things aren't going as they should. Those are the situations that they can't teach you in a classroom. Later on in the summer we had the opportunity to inspect the Northeast Blueberry Company in Columbia Falls, Maine. The goal was to ensure that the temporary labor camp met OHSA standards for the migrant workers. My supervisor had told me that the trees are greener in Maine and I must say that I agree.



I was also given the unique opportunity as a JrCOSTEP to attend the Scientific Symposium in Tuscan, AZ. This gave me the chance to see and hear where the Corps is heading in the near future. The category day to me was the most informative. It was all about environmental health in regards to where it has been and the direction it is heading. There were multiple officers that presented on what was going on in their area. It was interesting to see the different jobs that are available in the Corps. One of the other issues brought up at the meeting was

about recruitment. You can be assured that I will be heading back to WCU and telling students about my experience and do what I can to encourage them to pursue a COSTEP or full time employment.

What an amazing experience this has been for me. I wish that all students could have the opportunity to do what I have. I would just like to thank everyone who helped me along the way with the application process, getting the internship, and making this an unforgettable experience. I hope to see you in the field one day soon.