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CYSE 368

Spring 2026

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Reflection #2

### 100 Hours into the Innovation Lab Internship/Reflection Paper 2

Working as a program assistant for 100 hours so far has given me a lot to reflect on. Throughout my time working for the iLab, I've had to do a variety of tasks. These tasks consist of working in the iLab for K-12 field trips and completing tasks from an intern task list. One of the main highlights of this second set of 50 hours was from an outreach event where we took spheros to the Air & Space Science Center. The excitement from the guests seeing the spheros was very satisfying, and had me and the other interns smiling for the whole event. Another event I had the privilege of working was at one of the Innovation labs partner schools, MEESA. I was tasked with being a judge for their project, and was told to provide valuable feedback from my majors point of view. That experience was very fun and enlightening as seeing the students' imaginations fire up when asking questions was truly inspiring. I would honestly say that those experiences gave me progress to my learning objective of learning to succeed through failure. I say this because hearing their stories of research, struggles, and ideas reminded me of the design framework I was taught at the beginning of the internship.

The value of collaboration and professionalism are the most important things I've learned while working at the Innovation Lab. These two values were consistently seen and taught throughout my time working in the iLab. Every day throughout my time working at the Innovation lab the value of collaboration is present. Collaboration is used quite often during the field trips where the other interns and I have to bounce ideas off each other. It is also present in our off days where we work on the intern task list and coordinate goals for the day. The value of professionalism is consistently seen through the other staff and in our interactions with the K-12. As we make it our mission to keep professional and encourage students and fellow designers to innovate and use their imagination. These two values have helped me progress toward my learning objectives of building professional design communication skills, and demonstrating professional teamwork and collaboration.

In addition to the work and outreach events, I've gotten the opportunity to learn and operate unique pieces of technology that I've never encountered previously. So far I've worked with different versions of spheros, hydroponic systems, dobots, and printers. The main piece of unique technology that I've worked with is the Babylon hydroponics system. Throughout my second 50 hours and on the simple maintenance days, I consistently maintain the hydroponics system. I clean it out, plant new plants, ensure the nutrient level and pH of the water is to the needed amount, and perform regular maintenance on the system when needed. It has been very rewarding seeing my co-workers and bosses' faces light up when they see the plants growing after its period of inactivity. I've also had to put forth my cybersecurity knowledge to troubleshoot

a variety of different systems in the innovation lab. One of the main systems I attempted to troubleshoot was the internet connection to the Promethean boards that the Innovation lab uses. This was a challenge as it was something across all boards within the Innovation lab so I tried a few different methods and eventually got my answer, however I was told to submit a ticket to IT so they could handle the rest.

Overall, the second 50 hours have been very enlightening. Being able to work with these students and assist in kindling their excitement and curiosity for the STEM fields has been a wonderful experience. Also, seeing how excited many of the guests get when we start talking about the activities and design process consistently makes me smile. This internship has been exceptional at giving me experience in a general workplace environment, and has been perfect for reinforcing my problem solving and communication skills.