Jennifer Mick

Mrs. Ippensen

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Personal Research Report: Accounting

In a few years, I will be studying at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln to become an accountant. This decision has led me to learn more and more about accounting whenever I can. I didn’t always have my mind made up on becoming an accountant, but it became pretty clear after taking courses in high school. I’ve also had the chance to learn more about it through talking to a local accountant, college accounting majors, and college professors who teach the courses associated with degrees in accounting. In addition to that research, I have also searched the Occupational Outlook Handbook for valuable information on the career. It all started last August when I first began taking my high school accounting class.

I have always known that accountants work with numbers, but I never knew what else they had to do. Over the past seven months I have learned an abundance of information about the other half of their work. I’ve been studying the basics of the different tasks that are assigned to accountants. I got the chance to study everything from payroll to posting debits and credits into the general ledger. This class has really helped build a solid foundation on a variety of basic topics that will be important later on in life. It’s been a great learning experience, and also a wonderful starting point for me since I knew little about it before I started.

I have also been given the opportunity to learn more about accounting from a CPA, a Certified Public Assistant, and a variety of students who are studying to become accountants. They have left me with great tips on everything from internships to what classes they felt prepared them best for what they do now. I learned that it is important to build a strong resume with different internships. The CPA who I had the chance to talk to told me that I should work a variety of jobs as well, because that helps me find my spot and where I want to be. It has also become apparent to me that they are looking for your people skills, not just your grades and degrees. These tips are invaluable to me, and they help get me ahead of other students entering school at the same time as me. That means I will be one step closer, than they are, to getting a job.

There are a variety of occupations available to graduates with a degree in Accounting. By talking with Colin Wilson, a current CPA, I have been informed of the many different occupations he has held himself. Wilson has worked his way through many jobs including positions within the government, a BIG 4 Accounting Firm, and he has finally settled down in his own private firm here in town. As a Certified Public Accountant, Wilson performs a variety of accounting, auditing, tax, and consulting tasks (“Accountants and Auditors”). To become a CPA, it requires you to take 150 credit hours of schooling, and then sit for a CPA Exam to receive your certification. In addition to interviewing Wilson, I have also had the chance to take a field trip to Pinnacle Bank this year where they explored many of the different options available in a bank as well. In all, there are hundreds of different jobs you can fill with these degrees. Wilson left me with a strong piece of advice on how to find my dream job. He said, “You just have to work a variety of jobs, find what feels right.”

Accounting is a very important part of today’s business world. As I discussed what I have learned from my research on Accounting I hope I’ve left you with some new insights. Since I will be embarking on a new journey this fall it was important to start getting involved with my future field of study, which is Accounting, learn more about it from others involved in the same field, and start looking into what may be future careers for myself. Maybe you too will decide to study Accounting when the time comes.

Reference Page:

"Accountants and Auditors." *Bureau of Labor Statistics*. N.p., 8 Jan 2014. Web. 6 Mar 2014. <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/business-and-financial/accountants-and-auditors.htm>.

Colin Wilson