

Volunteerism Incorporated into Summer Internship Program



Avnet's interns got a taste of the company's commitment to community service and volunteerism while serving at three Phoenix-area organizations last summer.

Reviving a successful practice of involving interns in its community outreach efforts, employees from Avnet's human resources team accompanied the interns for a day at ICAN, the Phoenix Public Library or St. Vincent de Paul, then rotated to a different organization on another day.

"Volunteering enhances team building, helps bridge the gap between business and the community, motivates people to get involved and addresses community needs," says Claudia Reilly, North America program manager of talent acquisition. "Working together to help improve someone else's daily life improves team morale and spirit amongst our interns, and it teaches the interns about corporate citizenship. The interns were proud to be working for a company that devotes resources to community outreach programs."

Kaitlyn Beale, a senior at Arizona State University (ASU) who interned with the Avnet Electronics Marketing sales team, volunteered at ICAN and the library and says the experience changed her perception of Avnet. "It made me look at Avnet in another light because the company is extremely involved in volunteering and giving back to the community – being part of such a great thing was a great feeling," she says. "Getting out of the office for a couple of days to spend time with children at ICAN made the overall experience that much better."

Kaitlyn played basketball and did arts-and-crafts projects with children at ICAN, while Melissa Cipresso, another ASU senior who interned with the IP&E team, played tag, colored pictures and helped with snack time.

"Volunteering made me realize how influential one person can be and how this internship is about more than just getting work experience," she says. "The kids made a lasting impression on us and a week later we decided to collect items they needed. It felt good to give back to them."

The interns donated money from their own pockets to purchase balls, puzzles, books, pool noodles and art supplies for ICAN, delivering them on a separate occasion. "It was very apparent that Avnet really does care about the community; knowing that I helped contribute is a great feeling," says Lora Ballard, a senior at Michigan State University who interned with Avnet Technology Solutions. "It gave me insight into how I could actively be a part of what Avnet does to help make a difference."

But the interns weren't the only ones who benefited from the experience. Claudia volunteered with the interns at ICAN and says they made a good impression on the children.

"I heard some of the interns mention they are in college right now to the children and encourage the children to work hard in school and study to get a good job someday," she says. "They were inspiring to the kids, who also had a really good time."