



Sophia Bishop – Senior, William H. Turner Technical Arts High School

The Academy of Finance has extended many practical opportunities to me as a student and as future business professional. Through this outstanding NAF program, I have gained skills and experiences that are both invaluable and unforgettable.

It all began the summer before my sophomore year when I interned for the City of North Miami's City Hall. Before my first contact with the workplace, I did not truly believe that my love for numbers could actually turn into a paying job, let alone a solid career. But, after working under the Finance and Payroll department with the senior accountant, not only did I earn over 100 hours of community service; I more importantly discovered that my passion could easily be transformed into an attainable goal - becoming an accountant. Looking back, this opportunity was especially crucial in my high school career because it gave me a focal point to center my studies around, which added practical meaning to every experience, skill, and lesson that I have picked up thus far.

In my junior year, I interned for the South Florida Educational Federal Credit Union's school branch on campus at my school, William H. Turner Technical Arts High School, as both a teller and student manager. My leadership, marketing, and customer services skills were both tested and strengthened. I, along with the other interns, were responsible for creating and distributing marketing material on a monthly basis, processing documents to open new accounts, and, as the student manager, I coordinated group assignments and delegated specific duties to the other interns.

This past summer I had my first paid internship working for The Real Estate Resource Group, Inc. My training and certification in the accounting software, QuickBooks, allowed me to work hands on with the company's CFO. On a whole, the internship experience further exposed me to the nuances of the finance and accounting field, and I got a good grasp on the day-to-day operations of an accountant, giving me a glimpse into my future.

Now, in my senior year, through VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistant), an IRS program for high school and college students, I have been certificated in advanced tax law and twice a week after school I volunteer as a tax preparer to file tax returns for low income families in my community.

I greatly appreciate the hard work and effort of the entire NAF program. My plans after high school include continuing my education right here in Miami and earning a degree in business management and accounting to achieve my ultimate goal of becoming a Certified Public Accountant.

