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Purnell Students Have Unique Internship Opportunities At Thomson Reuters

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Commuting daily to the Manhattan office, Purnell interns work primarily in Research and Development honing collaboration and presentation skills, and gaining a great deal of career readiness as they experience the day to day operations of a multifaceted international finance company.

After a rigorous application process, including preparation of a professional resumé and interviewing with a full panel of teachers and administrators, only four students are selected for this prestigious internship. Brooke Malik, Director of Affinities and the Internship Coordinator says, “The application process and the internship are very demanding, and require a great deal of maturity and motivation, so being chosen to be an intern is recognition not only of the student’s potential, but also of her current work ethic.”

This year’s interns included Victoria Mason and Dominique Losen both of the Class of 2013, as well as 2012 graduates, Zelina Williams and Jiaming Liu. This was Liu’s second year competing for, and receiving the internship. She says both years were incredibly valuable. This year she became more interested in investment banking, something with which she wasn’t too familiar prior. Since she will be attending Lake Forest College in the fall, she is sure that she will continue to pursue this new passion for math and finance as a direct result of the internship.

For Zelina Williams, the people skills gained during the internship were most valuable. “I learned I can challenge myself in projects that aren’t in my comfort zone of knowledge,” Williams says, adding that the quick turn around from research to presentation will be a great asset she can use immediately next year as she attends Centenary College. Williams found the experience so worthwhile she plans to apply to be a college intern at Thomson Reuters for next summer.

Networking capabilities ranked high for Victoria Mason as a reward of the internship. “We all left with connections that can help us with jobs, internships and recommendations in the future.” Mason also noted that she gained resilience and confidence through this whole process. “After finding out I got the internship I knew I couldn’t let down my peers, family and teachers so I pushed through those tough days in the office and finished successfully.”

While Thomson Reuters does accept college interns as regular practice, Purnell School is the **only** high school with which they have cultivated a pre-college experience. In early 2010 current Purnell Board of Trustees President John Reid-Dodick (the Global Head of Human Resources in Thomson Reuters’ Markets Division at the time) invited Purnell administrators to meet with Patricia Toth of Thomson Reuters’ Financial & Risk Department. Toth and Brooke Malik quickly collaborated to solidify the internship process making it possible for the first set of Purnell interns to start their work in June of that same year.

Toth comments about past interns, “Their resumés are stellar, their tone, attitude and professionalism is outstanding for high school students . . . I think one of their best traits is the level of confidence and self-possession. They are not afraid of new challenges.”

Malik sees this internship as one of the signature elements of the Affinities program. Even the early preparation for the internship application teaches students valuable career readiness, “No matter the reason students apply for and/or participate in the internship, I see significant growth and an increased sense of personal responsibility. The application process is rigorous, and forces students to be incredibly reflective, and motivated to revise their materials on their own and seek advice if they need it. It's invaluable and rare for a high school student to have to prepare for an interview, develop interview skills, experience an interview, and receive feedback about their interview skills.” While the Thomson Reuters internship will continue to be the main summer opportunity available to qualified students, Malik constantly seeks career opportunities for Purnell Students both through the introduction of new careers in the Career Speaker Series, as well as several day-long opportunities like attending *Own It Ventures* career workshops, or talks and tours with professionals in Manhattan such as the recent tour of the warehouses of *J. McLaughlin* in the Spring of 2012. (See [News Story](#))