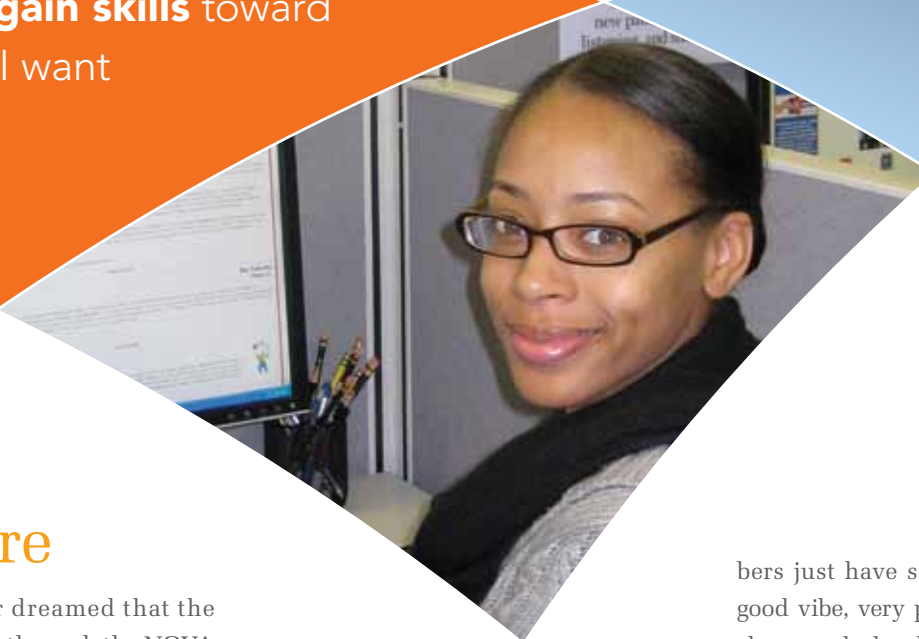


“ I feel like I’m able to **grow and gain skills** toward something I want to do. ”



Ausharre

Ausharre never dreamed that the summer job she got through the NOVA program would lead to a permanent position. But it did.

In 2009, the Mountain View resident started out as an intern working with the corporate communications team of San Jose-based technology giant Cisco Systems, the world’s largest maker of networking gear.

When the NOVA position ended, she was asked to stay on as a part time project specialist while she attends Foothill College. The job has given the Mountain View resident the grounding she’ll need to go for a career in law one day. “It’s just been a really positive learning experience,” she said of her Cisco post. “I feel like I’m able to grow and gain skills toward something I want to do.”

Ausharre’s job is integral to her team. She’s responsible for keeping track of details big and small. She explains what gives her the greatest satisfaction on the job: “Not seeing the

team members stressed out made me feel good because I was able to take things off their plate and get things running smoothly.”

One recent trip took some Cisco executives to Switzerland to meet with more than a dozen representatives from different countries. Ausharre pulled together documents for that trip, including briefing documents containing photos, biographies, and work duties of the foreign officials on the agenda.

“If the CEO is having a meeting with several people, he really doesn’t have that much time to read the details,” Ausharre explained, saying her job is to include only the most important information in those documents.

She calls her work interesting and fast-paced and says she’s excited to get to the office each day. “The team mem-

bers just have so much energy and a good vibe, very positive. I’m glad to be there to help them. I can learn, be creative, be an asset to a team, and be helpful.”

One of the biggest lessons Ausharre has learned is how to communicate in a corporate environment. Members of the team gave her informal instruction. “They were very good in leading by example,” she said. “They were really open about saying, ‘Watch how I do this.’”

With the money she’s earning, Ausharre helps pay for her schooling. She lives with her mother, a stay-at-home mom, and two younger siblings. Ausharre helps buy groceries for the household and pitches in when her younger sister, who’s on her high school’s basketball team, needs money for food or game fees.

Ausharre says working at Cisco has given her an up-front view of what it’s like working in corporate America: “Without NOVA, I would not be where I am today.”