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## Alumnus Highlight

Derrin Samaroo



Derrin Samaroo began his Cornerstone educational journey in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Derrin reflected on his time at Cornerstone. “I thought I wanted to be a football star, so I left Cornerstone and went to another school that had a strong football team. I was less focused on my school work and almost immediately, my GPA dropped significantly,” he said. Derrin returned to Cornerstone after only two months, acknowledging that he missed the environment. “I loved the academics at Cornerstone and the teachers always had time for the students. It felt like a family.”

Derrin shared that his GPA went up as soon as he returned to Cornerstone and started focusing on schoolwork again, so much so that he was invited to join the National Honor Society.

He also reflected on the opportunities that Cornerstone provided to him. Opportunities like the Midnight Golf Program which is taught by PGA professionals, the KAPPA Leadership and Development League, and meeting two of the CEOs of Lear Corporation, Matt Simoncini and Ray Scott. “These are unique things that I wasn’t offered at the other school I attended,” he says.

Through Cornerstone’s Career Pathways, Derrin spent a year and a half interning with Lear Corporation executives and staff learning about leadership, communication, mechanical engineering, and business skills. In fact, he spent so much time learning and building connections at Lear that he was offered a job as a technician right after high school. He is currently working at Lear Corporation and studying mechanical engineering at Oakland Community College with plans to transfer to University of Michigan Dearborn.

Derrin talked about how thankful he is for his decision to return to Cornerstone, saying, “Cornerstone gave me the best learning environment and helped me excel in my studies and pursue my future career.” To anyone thinking about attending a Cornerstone school, he says, “Cornerstone helps prepare students for life. They provide students with opportunities and experiences to help them succeed whether they move into a career, college or both.”

Derrin is happy for the foundation he received at Cornerstone. He says, “The skills that I learned at Cornerstone will help benefit me for the rest of my life.”

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