



achieve

...opening a world of possibilities

TREASURED MEMORIES

I had the most wonderful summer, thanks to my internship at Cartier San Francisco Boutique and a lovely woman named Worthy. Worthy and I struck up a conversation at the **achieve** Christmas party that lasted the entirety of the event. At her request, I was allowed to work in the boutique to get experience with high-end retail.

I was extremely nervous at the beginning of the summer, knowing that I would be Cartier's first impression of the **achieve** Program. I not only wanted my managers and coworkers to enjoy my presence, but also to be impressed enough with my hard work to continue offering internship opportunities to my **achieve** brothers and sisters. By the time my internship began, though scared, I felt confident that no matter how challenging or intimidating this job would be, I had a community of people in **achieve** who would support me, no matter what.

On my first day, I arrived at work an hour early. Though I may have overstepped the **achieve** saying, "On time is 15 minutes early," I understood how important attentiveness is within the workforce. My manager greeted me with great enthusiasm, touring me around the building and introducing me to the entire team. I was shy, but everybody seemed so excited to have such a young new hire. I was the first-ever 17-year-old high school student to work in the boutique, so everybody wanted to get to know me.

The first two weeks were meant for training. I was taught how to file documents, properly handle products, and memorize our inventory.

Immediately afterward, I was put to work and handled everything a hired associate would.

I was responsible for actively supporting our sales associates, cleaning and gift-wrapping jewelry, and handling customer requests.

I came to understand retail from a different perspective. I dealt with difficult situations regarding angry customers, discrepancies in stock, and frustrated colleagues, all while making sure that the store ran smoothly. Working retail is a lot more difficult than it seems and I am grateful to have experienced such challenges. Not only can I multitask with great efficiency, but I can also be extremely attentive and quick on my feet under pressure. A memorable experience I will always cherish is when my coworkers decided to dress me with several different pieces of jewelry they thought would suit me. I wore a one-of-a-kind black and diamond pearl necklace because they thought my long neck would suit it. Wearing a 4-million-dollar necklace while also wearing 5-dollar nail polish can be amusing.

I will treasure the memories made while working at Cartier. I created amazing bonds with my coworkers who gave me their advice regarding academics, economics, and even pursuing my dream of becoming an attorney. They were so encouraging and patient with me, truly creating a memorable, amazing summer.



Mia Lorenzo
HNHS '23



COLLEGE TOUR

achieve juniors tour colleges and universities: Carleton College, Gustavus Adolphus College, Macalester College, St Olaf College, University of St. Thomas

LEARNING ABOUT FINANCE

This summer I had the wonderful opportunity of being an intern at Baker Avenue, a wealth management company. Before my internship began, I was both nervous and excited. My supervisors, Sheila, a Wealth Advisor, and Jacob, a Wealth Associate, were so helpful throughout this experience and made it really educational and enjoyable for me.

During the internship, I worked on a high school course on finance as well as two projects. The first project was to create a business plan, so I decided mine would be on environmental consulting. I worked on it for two weeks with Sheila and Jacob, while also meeting with other staff on Zoom. These Zoom meetings not only taught me about the different positions at Baker Avenue, but also gave me a chance to ask questions that helped with my project. I was very nervous at the thought of presenting my business plan, but Jacob and Sheila reassured me that everything was going to be fine. My first presentation went really well, and that gave me confidence for my second project, which was a stock pitch on Costco. I researched the company and met with Nick, a member of the investment team, who was a wonderful help and explained to me what stocks were and how to evaluate a good stock and a bad one. This presentation was both harder and easier than my first one as I knew nothing about stocks, but I knew that Jacob, Sheila, and Nick were there to help me through it.

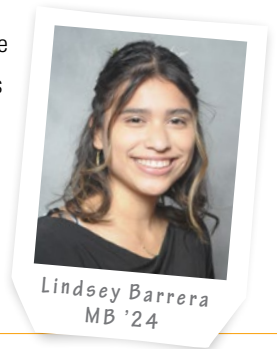
MY PASSION FOR MEDICINE

My summer started way back in November of 2021 when **achieve** sent out an email regarding a special internship program at Children's Hospital in Oakland for kids interested in STEM. I remember responding back quickly, confirming my interest. Being interested was not enough, I had to write an essay and fill out an application as well as ask my teachers for recommendation letters. Sometime in March I was emailed that I was selected to be part of the program. This was one of the most exciting emails I had ever received. This program would take up my whole summer, in addition to the college prep sessions at **achieve**, but that did not matter, I was absolutely thrilled to be part of such a prestigious program.

I started in June with Orientation and an overview of what the next eight weeks would look like. I was partnered with two endocrinologists at Children's Hospital. This hit home, as I was going to be working under the mentorship of doctors who studied autoimmune disorders, something that directly applies to me. Twice a week, I spent time in Zoom meetings where we would discuss different topics that were relevant to discussions taking place in the medical community. We had many interesting presenters who studied a multitude of specialties within healthcare such as chromosomal disorders, neurology, and even things like racial disparities in healthcare. In the beginning it was somewhat intimidating, the reason being that I was one of only four high school students; the rest were either starting or in college. Most of these students had already done some sort of medical research, but for me, this was completely unfamiliar. My job was to collect data on pediatric patients, looking for specific trends to find out whether or not there was a link between a thyroid

I learned so much from the Baker Ave staff as well as from the finance course that Jacob and Sheila had prepared for me. I was able to learn about finance and how to manage my money while still a high school student. I learned about the importance of saving money and about getting through debt and how to stay away from it. I learned about stocks and how to identify when a stock is a good investment and when it is not. I learned to show confidence while presenting; to have a clear voice while facing the audience. I also learned the skill of asking questions, either to keep the conversation going or simply to be able to understand a topic more. I also learned that I really enjoy both working together with people as well as having some tasks that I complete myself. Another thing I learned about myself is that as enjoyable as it was to work in an office, I found myself also wanting to do field work, to move around doing tasks, and to be able to do different things every day.

I loved my time at Baker Avenue and the people I met there. I gained knowledge as well as skills I can use in the future. Everyone was so kind and understanding, making them really approachable when it came to asking for help. I hope that in the future, people I work with will be as friendly and helpful.

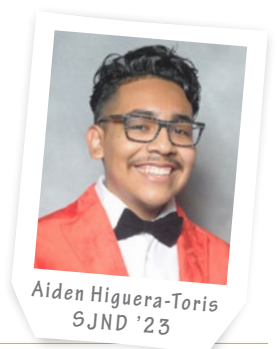


Lindsey Barrera
MB '24

condition called Graves' Disease and the COVID-19 pandemic. The project itself was interesting, but the best part was being able to be in an office setting, working under doctors and having access to patient charts.

Over the eight weeks, I gained confidence, communication skills, and self-reassurance. Communication skills because I had to put on my big boy pants and be in close communication every day with the doctors, the medical director of the program, and my coworkers whom I had never met before. At the end of the program, during the SSRP symposium where I displayed my research project and gave small presentations to everyone who came around my poster, I realized that I had gained so much confidence from this experience. Not only was I able to clearly explain what my project was about, but I was able to have great conversations with the guests, the doctors, and other interns. This was a good feeling, and I know this will be helpful when I go off to college.

Lastly, self-reassurance was key during this period. Honestly, this program was intense, challenging, and took up many hours where I was staring at my computer doing math. But despite all of this, I had so much fun. It reconfirmed my passion for medicine and health. It reassured me that becoming a doctor is still my goal. Having first-hand experience being at a doctor's office every day for 8 weeks, being part of medical conferences and discussions on different topics, and getting to know people who want to follow the same path was extremely rewarding. This was one of the best summer experiences of my life.



Aiden Higuera-Toris
SJND '23

FRESHMEN ORIENTATION

Freshmen orientation was an incredible experience. We got to see many new things and were able to bond with each other. I came to Orientation a little nervous but I then felt comfortable because everybody was very kind and welcoming. I got to make many new friends from my school and even from other schools. Each day we had different types of experiences and fun adventures. I enjoyed the time I spent with my fellow **achieve** students and the **achieve** staff. I felt very excited about the things I would do and learn with **achieve** in the next four years.

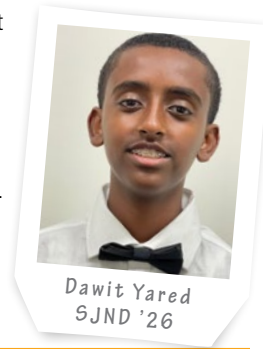
We started the first day with icebreaker activities. I got to know more about the students and teachers through this activity. I was a little nervous but it was extremely good for getting out of my comfort zone. We learned about the history of the **achieve** Program and its mission. We then ate lunch and started walking up the Filbert and Greenwich stairs. While walking up the stairs, I started talking and becoming friends with the other students. The view I saw from Coit Tower is something I will never forget. It was a sight to

behold as I could see so much of the Bay Area. It was a perfect first day.

The next day we all went on the ferry to Angel Island. It was really amazing. The ocean looked so beautiful and getting to talk with my friends was enjoyable. When we arrived, we all got separated into groups. Though I did not know anybody in my group, I talked to them while we walked and got to know them. We arrived at the museum and our tour guide taught us the history behind the bell and why the Immigration Center was created. I learned a lot about the history of Angel Island and the discrimination the Chinese people faced.

On the last day of orientation, we toured the Mission District. I was very excited to learn about the history and culture of Hispanic and Latino people. I was intrigued about each of the beautiful murals our guide explained to us.

The orientation was an amazing experience. I learned so much, got out of my comfort zone, and made new friends.



FRESHMEN ORIENTATION | **achieve** Class of 2026

REWARDS OF GIVING

During my time volunteering at the San Francisco Campus for Jewish Living, I was able to interact with and get to know many new people. My duties involved assisting my supervisor, Christian, and a few other workers with movement groups, ice cream socials, one-on-one conversations with some of the residents, and small celebrations for important holidays.

I learned and grew a lot because of these experiences. The one-on-one conversations taught me the importance of communication as well as the importance of community. Talking with one of the residents who felt more comfortable speaking in Spanish made me realize how isolating it must feel to almost never be able to speak your native tongue with anyone around you. She taught me about the importance of being bilingual, which was something I never thought had much significance because it was something I had always been able to do. She also taught me the importance of having your people around you, which is also something I think we all often take for granted.

I became much more confident during the time I spent volunteering. To make the residents feel more comfortable, I often had to put myself out there and not be afraid to look silly. During the Halloween celebration, I dressed up and danced around in order to encourage the residents to dress up with me and move to the music as best they could. It was a great experience and it taught me a lot about being more confident and not worrying too much about what others might think.

Giving back to the community has felt absolutely amazing. Being able to help others, even if just by making them laugh or by striking up a conversation, has created a sense of happiness and fulfillment within me. Giving back has also made me more grateful for all the opportunities I have been given. I am more thankful for my life and for the people in my life who care about me.





2022 Summer Internship Providers

- Baker Avenue Asset Management
- Berkeley Repertory School of Theatre
- BRIDGE Housing
- California Academy of Sciences
- Cartier
- Center for Independent Living
- Compass Family Services
- Computer Technologies Program
- DFS
- DivcoWest
- Eureka–Girls Inc of Alameda County
- Exploratorium
- First Republic Bank
- Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund
- Jewish Family & Children’s Services
- Jewish Vocational Services
- KQED
- LBA Realty
- Prado Group
- SFMOMA
- TEF Design
- UC Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive
- UC Berkeley Basic Needs
- UC Berkeley Botanical Garden
- UC Berkeley Controller's Office
- UC Berkeley Data Sciences (BUDS)
- UC Berkeley Girls in Engineering
- UC Berkeley Haas School of Business
- UC Berkeley International House
- UC Berkeley IT Student Affairs
- UC Berkeley IT Student Information Systems
- UC Berkeley Parking and Transportation
- UC Berkeley Recreational Sports Camps
- UC Berkeley University Development and Alumni Relations
- UC Museum of Paleontology
- UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland Research Institute
- UCSF Institute for Global Health Sciences
- Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital

INVALUABLE LIFE LESSONS

In the vicinity of Lower Haight Street lies the Haight Street Art Center. It was there, as part of the JFCS’s YouthFirst Program, that I was fortunate to have been an intern this summer. Haight Street Art Center is a non-profit organization whose mission is to bring people of all backgrounds together through art. Art is more than just paint on a canvas. Art is an image, a statement, a message, and many more things. At the Haight Street Art Center, artists are encouraged to inspire and impact both the younger and older generations with their messages. It was a safe environment where I was able to grasp a knowledge of art. Art can be powerful. It can change lives. It does not matter how other people view art. You view art the way you would like.

During the five weeks of my internship, I gained self-confidence, self-awareness, and a wealth of practical skills. I had the opportunity to learn screen printing techniques, as well as the significance of organization and computer literacy. At the Haight Street Art Center, screen printing played a vital role. We utilized screen printing to transfer one work of art onto another so that individuals might take a piece of art home with them. I had never heard of screen printing, and had no idea it was also used to make graphic t-shirts and posters. Screen printing takes time since the first attempt is rarely successful. I needed to discover a means of gaining comfort and practicing procedures. I learned from my errors. I now realize that mistakes are not a sign of failure, but rather a stepping stone to achievement.

While at the Haight Street Art Center, I was required to conduct an extensive inventory. It was my responsibility to count and organize the products, posters, and mementos on the shelves. Initially, it was quite difficult to obtain spaces for the containers, so I rearranged the storage space and devised a method for storing and organizing the containers so that people could find what they need much more quickly. I was really pleased with myself, and my boss acknowledged my efforts. This let me understand that I possess a good eye for detail. I previously believed I was

not a particularly organized person, but this showed me I was mistaken. I also realized that I am an excellent initiative taker. If anything is wrong, I must correct it and find a solution.



The responsibility of having a job taught me invaluable life lessons. I was scared at first. I thought I would not fit in and that my co-workers were going to be rude. I have come to see that that was not true. I fit in quite well, and my fellow co-workers had an attitude that anyone could love. I now understand what it is to have personal accountability. I was required to manage my time and adhere to a schedule in order to arrive on time, since it was my responsibility to do so. Additionally, I had to ensure that my daily activities were completed in an organized manner. I had many duties, which I had to manage myself. I did not have the assistance of my parents to wake me up and explain things I should have previously known. I was required to be autonomous, but also to advocate for myself and seek assistance when necessary. This altered the way I perceive my day-to-day activities and personal life. I was not prepared for what I went through. I believed it would be simple to do my job and depart. No obligations, no stress, and no agenda. I did not anticipate having to report my own hours in order to get compensated. I did not believe that communication would be an essential requirement for employment. I have always been reluctant to ask for assistance and private about my problems. I feel like I am a new person. I feel I have achieved significant personal growth.

My internship taught me that having a job is not easy. It requires skill, knowledge, responsibility, and effort. This experience allowed me to grow as an individual, and to change my perspective on life. I was able to learn who I really am, and I will always be grateful for having had this experience.

