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During my four months at TJXC, I worked in the Store Planning Department as a Store Planning Co-op, supporting the HomeSense banner. My focus was to maximize profitable sales and identify opportunities to improve the business across all stores, however I was involved in a variety of other initiatives. During a typical week, I could be conducting analysis on sales performance data; planning and monitoring new stores; supporting the core team with building and adjusting inventory plans; or visiting stores to evaluate the mix. The variety of projects made every day exciting, provided a broad perspective of the business, and challenged me to learn quickly. I spent half the time working independently and the other half partnering with associates both inside and outside my department.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

There was a tremendous amount of learning during my co-op that developed me personally and professionally, however three learnings stood out to me:

### **Embracing Ambiguity**

In many cases, the solution to a problem is not clearly black and white. Embracing ambiguity means being comfortable working in the grey. On the job, it was critical to be able to make judgment calls even when there were uncertainties and be adaptable when unexpected changes arose.

### **Building Relationships**

It would have been near possible to complete all my daily tasks and projects without at least talking or partnering with one other person. Building relationships does not only mean developing a connection on a work level, but also on a personal level. Having relationships opened up opportunities beyond my day to day role.

### **Being Humble**

Given all their successes, I was surprised that everyone around me was so humble, including Doug and his senior leadership team. During my time at TJXC, I realized that the more I learned, the less I knew. I think part of being humble is

acknowledging that you will not know everything, but being open to learning from anyone.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **New Stores/Relocations** - I was surprised to learn that TJXC gives their interns so much autonomy and responsibility. During my summer internship, I was involved in planning and launching new stores. Its awesome to actually see and touch the impact of your efforts.
- **Sample Sale** - one of the perks of being a TJXC associate! I was lucky to find Ferragamo shoes and a pink Diane von Furstenberg cross-body bag for less than a total of \$50!
- **QBM (Quarterly Business Meeting) at Dave and Buster's** - at TJXC, associates not only work, but also play hard. The planning team spent the afternoon playing arcade games as a way of strengthening relationships and building teamwork skills.
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- **Diversity Day** - the culture and people at TJXC are outstanding. I was impressed to see that culture is not only something people talk about, but put into action every day. This years Diversity Day included conversations around inclusion. Associates had an opportunity to bring their family in to enjoy an afternoon of food, cool treats, face painting, balloon animals, and bouncy castles!