

Videographer Gains Insider's View of Internship Program



From independent documentaries to corporate communications, Allison Walsh makes a living doing what she loves: telling compelling stories through video.

"I am passionate about telling authentic stories," says Walsh. "I began working with Ameren Illinois in 2019, and it's been a huge joy to see the way they reach out and invest in communities."

The Peoria-based videographer first learned about the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Internship Program while filming interviews with students and employers who had benefited from it. At the time, she assumed her business was too small to qualify. After learning otherwise, Walsh successfully applied for a grant to fund a summer intern.

After interviewing a handful of diverse applicants, Walsh hired Giovanni Galindo, a recent graduate of Southern Illinois University. Working 30 hours a week, Galindo helped organize and edit footage and assisted with video shoots.

"It was amazing to have Giovanni there on every single shoot. When I'm not doing 20 things at once, it allows me to focus and, ultimately, it makes the videos better," says Walsh.

Galindo gained valuable hands-on experience in his field, while also learning about energy efficiency and entrepreneurship. The experience taught Walsh, a one-woman show since 2017, the value of having a teammate you can trust.

"The Internship Program has been an invaluable experience that helped me grow as an individual and as a business," she says. "Without this, I would not have thought to hire someone for that many hours. I never thought I could afford to do that; now I don't think I can afford **NOT** to!"

Even after the Internship Program ended, Walsh continues to hire Galindo to assist with video shoots. She has also worked with several of the candidates she interviewed.

"We do not have a large population of filmmakers in Peoria who are women or people of color," says Walsh. "I was excited to be able to create a job opportunity for someone in film, and I'm eager to continue to build a diverse filmmaking community around me."

If you are interested in reaching out to Allison for your film needs, please contact her at allisonwalsh223@gmail.com.

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