Recent grad lands fantastic position with large catering company

Jamey Clinton worked in the restaurant business while attending high school in North Carolina, but never considered a career in the industry. After losing interest in the marketing and graphic design program she had enrolled in, she decided to return to her restaurant roots. Clinton went on to earn her bachelor’s in hospitality management and started working for Marriott hotels.

Inspired by campus tour
Her college courses sparked an interest in cooking. A friend’s dad had enrolled in Sullivan’s Professional Catering program and urged her to visit the Louisville campus.

While touring, Clinton had the opportunity to speak with several chefs. She was Resources for The Brown Hotel’s Sullivan’s on-campus restaurant, and even more so with Juleps, the on-campus catering company. Clinton was particularly excited to learn that the program’s internships included working with Juleps.

Hospitality Management students get inside track
She says, “Once I left my tour I knew that Sullivan was going to be the right place for me to chase after my catering dreams.”

Volunteering paid off
Within three months of that visit, she relocated and enrolled in the Professional Catering Program. One aspect that appealed to Clinton was the variety of volunteer opportunities that allowed her to get real-world experience and earn internship hours.

While she enjoyed all the events she volunteered for, Clinton will never forget working at The Taste of Derby. This opportunity allowed her to work with a chef who competed on the Top Chef series. Other memorable events include CaterArt and Private Chef’s Table, a dinner catered by Juleps for winners of a silent auction.

At CaterArts Clinton met Janet Woodson, co-owner of La-tee-da’s Catering Company based in Charlotte, North Carolina. After the event Clinton used her networking skills to land a series of phone interviews that culminated in a face-to-face cooking interview today.

Great career opportunity
While there, Clinton worked a couple of events with La-tee-da’s and built a connection with the entire staff. She felt fit in seamlessly with the team. Clinton says, “I had spent time with Janet and [we] talked a lot about what I have done to get to where I am today, about the catering program at Sullivan and where I might fit into their growing company.”

She learned Woodson and her staff had landed a contract to partner with another company to cater the 2012 Democratic National Convention, for which 35,000 attendees are expected.

The magnitude of that opportunity really drove home Clinton’s interest. A week after returning to Louisville, Clinton was offered a job with La-tee-da’s and she happily accepted.

“Being 2012 graduate of the Professional Catering program, she is now Chef Jamie Clinton of La-tee-da’s Catering Company. She learned Woodson and her staff had landed a contract to partner with another company to cater the 2012 Democratic National Convention, for which 35,000 attendees are expected.

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