

INTERVIEW WITH DAVID PECORELLI
PROJECT MANAGER
JJO CONSTRUCTION

Where did you attend college? What type of degree(s) did you earn, and in what field(s)?

I graduated from JCU in 2000 with a Bachelor degree in Industrial Organizational Psychology.

What is the name of the company you work for?

I am currently working for JJO Construction.

What is your current job title, and what do you do?

I am a Project Manager on our construction side. My duties include estimating, contract negotiating, project scheduling, establishing and keeping to project budget, management of trade partners and project superintendents, and client relations.

How did you get your current job?

My current position began in August of 2007 after working in residential construction for 7 years. I was laid off due to the drastic decline within the new construction industry. I utilized every contact I had. I conducted a mass amount of research in many local construction companies and I found a commercial construction company that was willing to give me shot!

Coming out of college, did you know what you wanted for a career?

Coming out of college, I thought that I wanted to be in recruiting. I enjoyed the thrill of placing candidates into roles that presented a great career opportunity. That thrill and excitement lasted less than 6 months before I began looking to make a move.

Did you achieve that goal?

For a recent graduate, I was successful as a recruiter and had a promising future. My interest was in construction however, and that is ultimately where I sought out to be in my field. I would say that I definitely achieved my goal, and that was to make sure my next career move would be in a field where I could climb the ladder.

While in college, what did you do to prepare for graduation, your first job, and your current job?

College didn't come easy for me and my grades were certainly not the best in my class. However, I worked hard, took notes, stayed organized and rarely skipped class. I was proactive with my schedule so that I could graduate on time without any hassle. My first job within construction has been the most rewarding to me so far. I have learned so much from everyone I've encountered. I would always ask questions to our trade partners, customers, peers, and upper management. Everyday I learned something new that would potentially help me later on in my career. Lastly, and one of the more important aspects that helped to propel me in my career, was training. I took advantage of every bit of training that I could receive. Whether it was company sponsored or informal, it was free, and I wouldn't resist to learn more!

What advice would you give underclassmen?

To the underclassmen, it is important to have an idea of what you'd like to do, but more important to be involved. Involve your self with campus sponsored clubs, events, community service, athletics, and part-time employment. Show your future employer that you managed a busy schedule, gained some experience, made some money, was nominated as team captain, all while earning a pretty good GPA! Good time management shows that you are organized, and both of those qualities are highly valued in business today.

What advice would you give seniors or graduate students who are seeking a job?

Figure out what you like, what you have passion for, what interests you, and what doesn't interest you, too! If you can land a job in an area of interest, your chances of staying in that career path are much higher, and you will give yourself the opportunity to love what you do. Many of my friends say they hate their jobs but make good to great money. I love my job and I make good money! Also, make sure you've had some real world experience, GET AN INTERNSHIP, whether it is paid or unpaid. You need the experience to stand out amongst your peers.

How can you make yourself stand out among every other job candidate?

Professionalism will help you stand out. You want the interviewer to remember their time with you. Look the role, do the research, come prepared, have good questions, and try to be yourself. Buy a planner, and USE it! Be able to relay to the interviewer how you managed paying rent, maintaining a 3.0 GPA, being involved in community service, all while working 20 hours per week as an intern. Have a firm handshake as well. All of this is basic but often forgotten.