



# MEET OUR 2022 SUMMER INTERNS:



**ELLA JAHNER**

Hi! My name is Ella Jahner and I am the marketing intern for this summer! I am currently a student at the University of Northern Iowa studying interactive digital studies with an emphasis on visualization and digital imaging. I am from Harvey, Iowa, and a recent graduate from Pella! I applied for this internship because of all the great things I have heard about PPI. Working here has given me a completely new perspective of the amazing community I grew up around. At school, I am a part of the Panther Marching Color Guard where I am a recruitment manager. A fun fact about me is I have been showing sheep since I was five! I have loved getting to partner with not only our Iowa locations but as well as internationally!

Hi! My name is Jake Eubanks, and I am the Industrial Engineering intern for PPI this summer. I am an Iowa native who grew up around the Des Moines area in Altoona. I attend Iowa State University as an Industrial Technology major with a focus on manufacturing. I will be going back as a second semester senior in the fall, finishing my degree and graduating in December of 2022. I have always been very interested in math and science and how I can apply that to the real world such as in the manufacturing industry. I applied for this position because I was familiar with the company and it seemed like a great opportunity to get hands-on experience in a manufacturing setting. My goals for this internship were to come in and get hands-on experience in the engineering world along with making an impact in the time I was here! I am very excited that I had this opportunity to intern for PPI this summer!



**JAKE EUBANKS**



**TRONG BAO**

Hello everyone! My name is Trong Bao, and I am an information technology intern at PPI. I have been in the States for about 8 years now, but my hometown is one of the most beautiful cities in Vietnam, Nha Trang. I currently attend Central College, where I will graduate with a Computer Science degree this December. My goal for this internship is to learn more about real-world problems in a professional IT environment. My internship at PPI also provides me with a good opportunity to apply what I have learned in school to real-world issues. One fun fact about me is that I can solve a variety of Rubik's cubes including 3x3, 4x4, and 5x5.

My name is Sam Burchett, from Mobile, AL. I am working as an engineering intern at PPI to further my growth as an engineer. This fall I will be in my junior year studying aerospace engineering at Iowa State. Outside of class, I am a member of the robotics, rocketry, and Taekwondo club.



**SAM BURCHETT**



**MATTHEW  
NEUHALFEN**

Hello, my name is Matthew Neuhalfen and I'm an Engineering Intern here at PPI working mainly with the pulley team. I'm from a small town Glenwood, Iowa, but currently attend Central College in Pella, IA. At Central, I will be a junior this fall pursuing a Bachelor's of Science in Engineering, and hoping to graduate in 2024. I also play on the Men's Soccer Team for Central College and participate in our new SAE club (Society of Auto Engineers). I applied at PPI without any real in-depth knowledge about the company. However, my main goal was to learn the basic flow of manufacturing and gain hands-on experience working daily with the product. A fun fact about myself is that I was a pig showman for about 11 years. I was involved in 4-H for all nine years and traveled around the Midwest to other non-4-H shows growing up.

## WE KEEP IT MOVING



# WHAT WAS SOME OF YOUR MAIN PROJECTS YOU WORKED ON THIS SUMMER?

## ELLA JAHNER

The main projects I have had the opportunity to work on are our sales calendar and working one on one with our Human Resources department! With our sales calendar, each customer receives one and I had the pleasure of capturing, editing, and designing the calendar. Within HR, I have been able to make brochures, graphics, & folders to better show our communities what PPI is all about. A few other things I have worked on is this blog post, working with international locations on content, graphics for our social media, information on our website, and inventory of promo items!

## TRONG BAO

One of the most important projects this summer that I have worked on was deploying tablets and computers to PPI employees. Besides that big project, I also appreciate working on some small projects like researching tools and software to improve the company's efficiency and productivity. Working on some of those projects enables me to think outside of the box. I would encounter numerous failures while conducting my study until I came up with the best answers. I enjoy the small victories after many trials and errors before figuring out the solutions.

## JAKE EUBANKS

A few of the projects that I had this summer were projects that included time studies of certain processes throughout the Humboldt plant. The main process I looked at was the shaft installation area. There are a lot of different moving parts in that area and it took all summer to figure out all of those moving parts. Another project I worked on was a fixturing project for machining rubber on a lathe for a specific pulley that is made at this plant. A few of the other things I worked on this summer were updating the plant layout in accordance with things being moved around the plant, as well as assisting the plant manager with smaller projects throughout the summer!

## SAM BURCHETT

The main source of work is Engineering Change Orders (ECOs). These can be as simple as making a single dimension change or as complex as designing a new series of parts from scratch. However, the two most interesting projects so far include designing a new frame for a ship loader and a tool to install center frame clips.

## MATTHEW NEUHALFEN

This summer, I have done a multitude of things ranging from importing saved files into the PPI Vault to working out in the shop helping R&D run tests on products. The largest project so far has been moving CDP's (Customer Drawn Prints) into the Vault from a Public Drive folder. A goal set by the pulley team was to have the entire folder moved by the end of this summer, so I'm happy I was able to help them accomplish it.

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## WHAT IS YOUR ROLE IN THE COMPANY & HOW DOES IT RELATE TO OUR PRODUCT?

### ELLA JAHNER

My role in the company is to capture our company's values, assist the department with new ideas, and create a smooth transition to different themes. This entails me researching how to better our company and create more visual appeal. My job requires me to make specific products appealing and relevant to all people. I also get to work with our online store and social posting. I get to wear many different hats at work which I love!

### JAKE EUBANKS

As an industrial engineer intern here at the company, I help with process improvement in the plant and also help with making sure the processes in the plant have good labor hour estimates. Back to one of the main projects I have been working on, I collect time data for certain processes – mine in particular the shaft installation area to compare those time studies to the estimated labor hours. With the comparison, adjustments are made to the estimating equations to better estimate the hours. Also, I help with different projects around the plant to better improve processes, which makes for better efficiency in manufacturing pulleys.

### MATTHEW NEUHALFEN

As an engineering intern, I work closely with the main product engineers to design new prints for existing parts or update old part prints with their prescribed changes. I also update sheets of manufacturing standards, which are the foundation for much of the work, we do here at PPI.

## HOW IS PPI DIFFERENT THAN OTHER COMPANIES?

### TRONG BAO

The atmosphere and people at PPI are what makes it such a terrific place to work. My manager and my team always take the time to help me with any issues. HR department and the management team really invest and create opportunities for the interns to travel and learn more about the company. Knowing that I will have fun and that we will always have each other's backs makes me pleased to go to work every day.

### SAM BURCHETT

PPI offers good benefits such as profit sharing and employee stock ownership. While this is not applicable to me as a part-time employee, I hold company ethics regarding fair wages and benefits in high importance. Tony Van Zee, Idler Product Engineering Manager, has also been a good supervisor, offering guidance when needed, providing substantive work, and space to work independently.

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# FINAL THOUGHTS & TAKEAWAYS

## ELLA JAHNER

Overall, I am extremely grateful I was chosen for this position. I have been able to learn so much about the manufacturing industry and what it has to offer for other people. At PPI, I have been able to learn so many design elements and marketing aspects that I feel I wouldn't be able to learn anywhere else. My coworkers and supervisors have shown me why PPI is so special and why we are #1 in the US for the production of pulleys and idlers, it comes down to the people that keep it moving!

## TRONG BAO

I urge everyone to apply for internships, especially college students, because I didn't realize how much I would have learned without this experience. A smart approach to determine whether a job is suited for you is to apply for an internship. I want to express my gratitude to PPI, in particular the IT department, for having me work here as an intern this summer.

## JAKE EUBANKS

My biggest takeaway from this summer is this is exactly what I want to do for a career after college. With the broad field of engineering, it is always hard for college students to find themselves in a position of knowing what they want to do after school. A fear for most students is landing a job right out of college and not actually enjoying what they do. A couple of semesters back I was not sure exactly or even remotely what I wanted to do and this opportunity changed that for me. I had hoped this internship was going to give me a better sense of understanding of what I really want to do after school, and that is exactly what it did. All in all, I am grateful to have had this opportunity and can't wait to see where this internship takes me.

## SAM BURCHETT

All in all, my time as an engineering intern has been a positive experience. I would recommend this position to those looking for an engineering internship in Pella.

## MATTHEW NEUHALFEN

During this summer working at PPI, I was able to accomplish both of my main goals and I'm not even finished with the internship yet. I've picked up many new skills pertaining to working with new programs and software, also how to navigate an expansive Vault-like system. Overall, this has been a great opportunity for me and I'm very happy I accepted PPI's invitation for my first engineering internship.

# THANK YOU INTERNS FOR A GREAT SUMMER!

# *WE KEEP IT MOVING*