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Laffer Associates / Laffer Investments

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This summer I had the opportunity to work as an intern at Laffer Associates in Nashville, Tennessee. The company is an economic research firm founded by Dr. Arthur Laffer that provides global investment research to financial institutions, money managers, pension funds as well as numerous corporations. Dr. Laffer continues to work at the firm as founder and CEO of the firm; however, with the help of his son, Arthur Laffer, Jr., the company has expanded to incorporate Laffer Investments, a money management side, into the firm. Dr. Laffer served as President Ronald Reagan's economic advisor and is the creator of the Laffer Curve. His accomplishments and advancements in the field of economics have credited him with numerous awards and have positioned him as one of the world's most influential economists. Staff members at Laffer Associates publish weekly papers in which they discuss and analyze the effects of domestic and foreign policy. The firm takes a strong emphasis on political events and decisions throughout the United States and discusses how they will affect current and future economic conditions.

As an intern I was initially placed in charge of editing and proofreading articles and publications before their final stages. As each task was finished, I would fill my free time with transcribing audio files from the May 2013 Laffer Conference in Washington, D.C. until another task was given to me. Although proofreading and transcribing articles did not further my skill set very much, I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to read and listen

to Dr. Laffer's opinions on important political and economic issues throughout the country. The annual Laffer Conference in the nation's capital is not nationally broadcast; therefore, the speeches and discussion are not censored for the media. This allowed me to get a real life understanding of the speaker's opinion on key issues. These speakers included United States Congressmen Paul Ryan and Jared Polis, Congresswoman Kristi Noem and Senators Bob Corker, Lamar Alexander and Ted Cruz.

As my time at Laffer Associates progressed, the office became more comfortable with my abilities and I began to work on more important projects. Arguably the most beneficial task that I was given came from the other side of the office, Laffer Investments. None of the Laffer employees had ever learned how to use Thomson Reuter's investment program called Thomson One and I was placed in charge of learning how to use the program and teaching the program to the office once I understood. I spent hours on the phone with technical support; however, I developed a program skill that will stay with me forever. Once I presented my understanding to the office, they began going to me for all Thomson One and Bloomberg essential tasks, which allowed me to practice on the machines. My favorite computer task involved creating an auto-updating chart that allowed me to input a country's ticker or code and the program would chart year-by-year changes in growth rates, exchange rates, and other various measures. After completing all of the tasks with Laffer Investments, I went back to working on Laffer Associates assignments once again.

My final task at Laffer Associates consisted of me working alone on one of the firm's papers. I was given the task of researching, organizing and writing a paper

describing the economic productivity within the state of Minnesota. Over the course of about one month, I decided what direction I wanted the paper to go, what information I wanted to include, researched and obtained the data to support my claims, organized and charted the data, and wrote the paper around my findings. The trust and confidence that Laffer Associates showed in me gave me confidence and is one of the most irreplaceable items on my resume when entering the job market. The ability to combine all of my summer work and knowledge into this final soon-to-be published paper was the perfect ending to a wonderful internship.