Product Proposal – Senior Capstone Career Project

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Designated Timeline: Fall

Focus: Capstone and Career

1. What is your product? In other words, what will you actually produce? What will be the end result of the application of the skills you acquire? Will you produce a tangible product, such as a piece of furniture or a set of blueprints? Will you use your skills to produce an intangible product, such as an event, a performance, a certification, a donation (include the name of the charity), service to the community, or a combination of these? Will you produce notes from a job shadowing or internship experience in a composition notebook? How does this project represent your career goals?

I plan to produce a tangible product. My product will be an online handout highlighting Eastern Medicine Techniques that can be used on animals. I will include information on Acupuncture, Adjustments, Laser Therapy, Herbal Medicines, and Homology. This will be posted online to the Hickory Flat Animal Hospital website to help give users more detailed information on alternative treatment options. I am job shadowing Dr. Julia Partin, so I will be taking notes in a composition book to keep track of all the information I acquire. I will also collect information from her recommended resources. This represents my career goals because I wish to become a veterinarian and would like to learn more about the different techniques used to treat animals. I would also like to learn more about Eastern medicine techniques to help treat the animals in the best way possible.

2. Is your project a capstone project, a career-related project, or both?

My project is both a capstone project and a career-related project. I have taken AP Biology, Honors Biology, and Honors Chemistry, and I am taking Honors Human Anatomy this year. My interest in the sciences has pushed me to want to major in biology. Therefore, it is also a career related project because I plan to major in biology and then continue on to veterinary school to eventually gain my Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. From there I will be able to work in a clinic and provide pets with the care and treatment they need. Shadowing now will help me enter my studies with some training and clinic experiences. The experiences that I will gain shadowing this year will help me acclimate to future environments I may be in. Since I will be learning how to handle animals during examinations and will see the daily activities of a veterinarian, I am getting the opportunity to see how everyday life could be for me in my future career.
3. What skills will you develop during the course of your Senior Capstone Career Project? List three or more skills specific to your project.

I will develop skills on how to work in a clinic environment and how to work with animal patients and their owners. I will learn the basics of acupuncture, laser therapy, and adjustment treatments, and the ins and outs of care for small animals. I will develop more skills when it comes to interacting with pet owners and how to handle the various scenarios that can occur in the clinic. Outside of the clinic, I will learn how to make a handout that is informational but still holds the attention of the reader. I will develop skills in the design of the handout and posting it to the website for users to view.

4. How will you use these skills in the future? You must explain how these skills will serve you in a future career and/or endeavor.

These skills will help me diagnose and treat animals. In veterinary medicine, you encounter many different medical situations. Each animal often needs an individualized treatment just like people do. By gaining knowledge of different treatments during this project, it will enable me to plan individualized treatments better for each animal. Not only will I gain knowledge on the eastern medicine techniques, I will also see how a busy clinic environment works. I will learn how to be efficient and precise but also caring and willing to search for the best medical option. I will see how to balance many things going on at the same time and how to keep track of it all. These skills will serve me in the future because time management is something that I know will be a part of my years in school and then also in the work force. Then entering school with this knowledge, I can use it and apply it to future assignments and hands on learning that I encounter. These skills will provide me with a baseline to begin building up from. By seeing the basics of how to handle animals and clean up after them how to do acupuncture and herbal treatments, I am developing a wide range of not only daily skills but also specific skills. The online creation of the handout will also help me in the technology driven future. By gaining more knowledge and skills in creating, designing, and posting the online handout, I will learn computer skills that can be helpful of any aspect of my future.

5. Why have you chosen this product?

From a young age, I was always in love with and intrigued by animals. My father is also a veterinarian himself, so I have grown up learning about all animals and treatment for them. It inspires me how easily my father diagnoses situations, finds the best care, and is able to treat animals so they become healthy again. Growing up I was able to see first-hand how the knowledge in this field helped people on a daily basis. Whether it was neighbors coming over to ask my dad for treatment help with a sick wild animal they found or an emergency call from the office, my dad was always able to handle it. This always inspired me and has made me want to work to become a veterinarian. I want to be able to help treat the animals that many people consider family members. As I spent more years in school, I became more and more interested in the sciences. This was when I knew I wanted to begin focusing on and study in the biology field. In the future, my goal is to attain a bachelor’s degree in biology and then get into Veterinary school. Then I want to learn and intern in veterinary school to eventually gain my doctorate.
When I do finally achieve my doctorate, I want to be able to give pet owners options for the best possible treatment. I feel that with this project I will gain valuable knowledge that in the future will help me treat, diagnose, and help save the lives of many animals. Creating the product will give me skills on the technology side of the world to help me in school and the workforce.

6. What previous experience or prior knowledge do you have that relates to your Senior Capstone Career Project?

My father is a veterinarian, so I have grown up in the clinic atmosphere. I have always helped out at the clinic and have provided open ears for when my dad was trying to figure out a diagnosis or the best treatment options. I have been shown numerous x-rays and charts of sick animals. I have read through many informational books and magazines and been taught about the way the clinic works. I have helped my father perform ultra sounds and have given shots to our own pets and other animals. I have been there when family friends call my father about a sick pet. I would go in and help when my dad had to treat animals at times that were not always convenient. The exposure to the clinic atmosphere is part of what piqued my interest in the project.

7. How will you acquire the skills necessary to produce your product?

I will be meeting with my project facilitator on a regular basis to help me develop these skills. I will be shadowing her at many of her appointments and learning some of the basic skills of Eastern veterinary medicine. On my own I will be studying more information from the suggested resources from my facilitator to help me create my product. I will meet with my facilitator at Hickory Flat Animal Hospital twice a week for multiple weeks in order to see these techniques first hand. I will also meet with my facilitator to receive feedback on my product progress and where I can improve the online handout.

8. Who is your project facilitator? What education and/or experience does he or she have that will help you acquire the skills you intend to develop through your Senior Career Capstone Project? Attach his or her business card to the front of your proposal if he or she has one.

Dr. Julia Partin is my Senior Capstone Project Facilitator. Dr. Partin graduated from The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine then practiced small animal Western medicine for seven years. She then acquired her certification in animal acupuncture through the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society. A year after that, she became a certified veterinary Chinese Herbalist through the Chi Institute. She then also trained and then gained her certification in veterinary chiropractic. She did her training and earned her certification through the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association in 2007. She can now treat animals with traditional veterinary medicine and surgery, Veterinary Acupuncture, Veterinary Chiropractic and Animal Adjustments, Chinese Herbs, Homeopathy, Magnetic Therapy and Therapeutic Laser. Dr. Partin currently works at Hickory Flat Animal Hospital.