



Master of
Industrial Distribution
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

MID

Success Stories

AGGIE GRADUATES IN INDUSTRY

Q&A with



Brad Vance

MID Class 2013

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What did you like best about MID?

"I liked working with students from similar as well as totally different types of distribution. It really opened my eyes to the global perspective of distribution, supply chain, logistics, etc."

What knowledge were you able to implement at work immediately?

"I was able to take all the best practices and methodologies taught through the program and start teaching it through my company's vast network of distribution customers."

From the time you heard about the MID program, how long did it take you to decide to apply?

"I had to wait about a year to enroll, but I knew as soon as I learned about the program that I was going to apply."

Did you benefit from RES Week? If so how?

"YES! The personal interaction with my fellow students brought about a very cohesive group of students. I still talk to many of them today."

What were your takeaways from Res Week?

"Re-learning how to do group-based academic projects. But more importantly, I felt residency week created the foundation and helped set expectations for the rest of the year."

Where was your global trip to?

"Brazil."

What experiences did you value from that trip?

"The experience of working with international companies, real problems in their business, and the ability to work with them to come up with actual recommendations to help solve the problems identified for our team."

What was your favorite aspect of the Global Class?

"Obviously, the opportunity to go overseas and sightsee was a fantastic experience, but also the exposure to a truly global distribution experience was a favorite aspect."



What was your capstone?

“My capstone was focused on an initiative in Brazil where the country was investing billions in building out the knowledge of distribution and supply chains. I worked on behalf of the program to develop a market penetration study, providing the feasibility of engaging with Brazilian academia to share knowledge as well as learn more about the unique needs in Brazil’s distribution infrastructure.”



Did you implement, if so what were the results? If not, how did you benefit from the Capstone?

“No, though I do believe my research helped the program engage with some universities there.”

After MID, did you get any pay increases, promotions, recognition that were a result in part or because of the MID, Capstone, or skillsets learned?

“YES! My connections with the MID program brought about a career change halfway through my MID journey. I have financially benefitted from having “MID” at the end of my name. It also gives me a greater level of credibility, as my job is working with our distribution customers all over North America.”

What skillsets do you utilize on a day-to-day basis that you mastered in the MID?

“Root cause analysis, item stratification and placement strategy, quality, technology implementation, best practice assessing.”

What advice would you give someone who is thinking about a master degree?

“If you’re torn between an MBA degree and the MID degree, especially if your career is in distribution, supply chain, logistics, go with THE MID degree, not just any other MBA program. There’s only one MID.”

What advice would you give to someone that is entering for the MID?

“Train yourself early on to make time for school work in your free time. Train up on using tools in Microsoft Word that might not have been native to Word when you went to College.”

What advice would you give someone about their capstone projects?

“Be laser-focused on your problem statement. Don’t let the scope of your project creep. Put those “nice to be included” things on a “for future study” list.”

Have you kept in contact with any of your peers?

“Yes.”

If so, is it on a professional or personal level?

“Both.”

Do you believe that the curriculum was sufficient to prepare you for the next steps in your career, if so, How?

“Yes. The program gave me a deeper understanding of supply chain and distribution. It had a direct correlation with the work I was doing in my day job.”

On average, how much time per week did you dedicate to the MID program?

“I would typically spend 10-14 hours a week dedicated to the MID program. But it never stopped me from taking needed R&R or sometimes using the MID program to get out of family commitments I didn't necessarily feel motivated to attend.”

Did the MID program structure compliment your personal and professional lifestyle?

“Yes.”

Is there anything else you would like to share about the MID program?

“The MID program gave me the tools and enhanced my skillset to grow professionally and personally. I am a better contributor in my organization for having my MID degree.”

If you could summarize your MID experience, now that it has been completed, how would you do so in one sentence?

“The best thing I ever did for my career in distribution!”



A large group of people, mostly men and women, are posed in many rows on a set of stairs. They are all wearing maroon polo shirts with a white logo on the chest. Many of them are giving a thumbs-up gesture. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly a university building. The entire image has a semi-transparent maroon overlay.

This is what success looks like.



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To learn more about the program, application requirements and information sessions, visit us at:

mid.tamu.edu