

“What does the ice cream industry mean to you?”

For the past four summers the ice cream industry has been my life. I started working at Mik Mart Ice Cream the summer before my senior year of high school and I knew that it was the best job a kid my age could ask for the day I started.

To me the ice cream industry has represented personal growth, in many aspects such as entrepreneurship, communication, leadership, and social skills. This is my fourth summer working for Mik Mart and over the years I have learned many professional skills that will carry me far in life. Driving the trucks through the neighborhoods and seeing all the happy faces has helped me improve my communication and also Mik Mart has always pushed entrepreneurship which was constantly improving for me as I sold more and more ice cream over the years. My social skills have also drastically improved while working at Mik Mart, the relationships that I have made with not only my coworkers but also the owners, Kristi and Scott have been an awesome way to create a more welcoming and energetic workplace.

I started out at Mik Mart Ice Cream as a driver and have since worked my way up to shift lead, then assistant manager, and now manager of operations. Throughout these promotions I have shown initiative and responsibility and learned what it takes to be noticed in a workplace which has ultimately helped me be promoted to a Human Resources Manager in just two years at my job while I am away during the school year at North Dakota State University. Being a manager at Mik Mart comes with many responsibilities, one of the biggest being leadership. Mik Mart has grown a TON since I first started, we have added a new truck and even opened a full-service ice cream shoppe. With these new additions come with more new employees to manage and oversee, while being a manager I have learned how to delegate work and also how to be a motivating leader for others in the workplace. I try my best to have a positive attitude and also have a bit of fun while still completing various tasks while I am working because I believe that others feel more comfortable and ultimately enjoy working more.

When I am not working at Mik Mart during the summers I attend North Dakota State University where I study food science. Through food science I would really like to get into the research and development side of things and eventually work in product development. Working at Mik Mart gives me a look inside what consumers are looking for in our products, and what could draw them away. Things like bright colors and bold flavors are ideal for kids but could also draw parents away from buying for their kids as the ice cream will melt and stain clothes. As someone studying food science it makes me think about different things such as stabilizers or various proteins that could be added to make the ice cream melt slower or not be as “free flowing” when it does melt to entice parents to buy these awesome ice cream treats for their children. This is just a small example of some things I think about with a food science background while working in the ice cream industry.

To me the ice cream industry has been a home for the past couple years, it had helped me grow in so many ways and in a sense “raised” me to who I am as an entrepreneur today. I am thankful for all the smiling faces of the many happy costumers I have encountered, and all the friends I have made along the way.