

HOPE

The 2008-2009 HOPE (Horticultural Occupational Professional Experience) Program began September 11th with students in the Northern Program visiting Hoffie Nursery, Union and Central Students heading to Home Nursery, Albers.

The HOPE Program provides Jr. College students with an opportunity to experience the nursery and landscape industry in Illinois with a “hands-on” approach to prepare them for careers in horticulture.

At Home Nursery the students were given the opportunity to use specially designed equipment and techniques to trim shrubs and trees as well as learning the most efficient way to use your time and equipment on propagation, Matt was great! Learning how the product is grown and how it reaches the buyer was eye opening.

Being exposed to a large business like Home Nursery helped us to see all the different aspects of the industry, from ordering, shipping, digging, trimming, propagation, equipment and safety. This experience helped me to appreciate all the hard work that is needed to make the entire industry work together.

Thank you to Home Nursery and all of their staff, they were all very talented, very nice and made our two days fun! ■



Photos compliments of Allyson Hoffmeyer



Production was broken into two phases, the first included Pruning and the Over Wintering Process, as well as IPM & Scouting - Insect/Disease ID. The second phase included Production Planning, which was both an Explanation of Hoffie Nursery's Production Planning Theory and Producing a Production Sheet; and Potting & Media Management which included Potting of Production Sheet and Checking EC/Watering/Labeling.

In addition to meeting and learning from Hoffie staff throughout the day, students also got to hear from Hoffie president (and former IGIA president) Carsten Hoffmeyer on the "History of Hoffie Nursery and GET Group, Inc."



continued . . .

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Each program and each location is different, but students always receive intensive training, hands-on experiences or both. At Hoffie, the HOPE Apprenticeship students were given a glimpse into Sales, Shipping and Inventory; the GET Group and Propagation; and various facets of Production.

As for Sales, Shipping and Inventory, they addressed Customer Management, Philosophy, and the Availability Process - Inventory, Constant Contact, and Availability on Website. They also covered Placing an Order, and Shipping which included the Pulling of an Order, Checking of Orders and Delivery Scheduling & Loading.





While at GET Group, they addressed Propagation, including the Process of taking Cuttings - Filling Flats, Cutting and Sticking, and Dividing/Potting Stock Plants.

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