**PRT 4828 – Reflective Journal #5**

Student Name:  Peter Cimmino                                                                    Dates: 3/5/18 – 3/18/18

Site Supervisor:  Chad “Mouse”                                      Internship Hours: 371 Weekly Total: 86

Agency:  Brighton resort                                                                         Cumulative Total to Date: 371

Brief description of the past two week’s duties:

  It seems to me it only snows when I work. The first week and a half started off another warm spring dry spell. All of the snow we just received quickly melted away from consistently warm days and longer sunlight. However, the end of the 2 weeks we again saw a big snowstorm, and more shoveling.

Week one started with leftover snow. We started by closing the big jumps, and setting rope lines so snow cats could maneuver while destroying and rebuilding for this, the snow cat does most of the building work, but we head into the zone to complete each jump. Hand crew cuts each jump to a perfect square, and does the final groom to make sure the lip is at the right angle. It is also important that we test the jumps to make sure that it will be safe for the public to use.

Week two began slowly, with not much to do besides enjoying and riding what we had worked hard last week to build. However, we quickly moved onto our next task to prepare for the future snow. Most of the park has just had a rebuild, but our small/medium park has gotten awfully stale. After closing one night, we took down an entire rope line in candy land in order to give the cat room to maneuver and change the pitch and shape of the run. We also moved all of the features out of the way, to be set back in after the cats were done.

How are you experiencing a relevant and challenging use of your skills?

  At this point in the year, people tend to loose motivation. Especially so on such a bad snow year. A saving grace is this late snow, which aides in keeping spirits high. A short vacation, or a day off can go a long way.

For me personally, it has been beneficial to try and keep spirits high. I’m a people person, and I like making people laugh, or assist in having a good time.

What did you learn from the experience?

  Everyone is different, and responds differently in situations. What might help raise spirits of one employee might bum someone else out. I’m not a manager, but as a manager it would be really beneficial to get to know your employees on a personal level, so you know how to help them through tough situations, or how to motivate them, or even how to discipline them.

What worked well?  What would you change next time?

  I think so far everything has been going well. As I’ve said in many other reflections, the only thing I would change would be the snow level for this year. But low snow is a challenge that we have to face in this industry, especially with the climate changing and becoming warmer and more erratic.

Please describe the supervision you are receiving:

   Every day I work, I am either working closely with my manager Mouse, or a supervisor, Treyson or Stefan. We do every task as a crew; there is not much division we experience. I really enjoy the management Mouse offers because he does not think of himself as higher than the crew. He works side by side with us, rather than being a boss and sitting back and watch the work get done. If I have questions, mouse is either a shout away, or a radio call away. I am never left on my own, to figure out things by myself.

I also am not afraid to ask questions. I am hungry to learn, and I am taking this as an opportunity to help me reach my goals in the future.

Reflective Journal #5:  Describe how you are continuing to work toward your goals. Have you completed any goals? Which ones? How did you complete them? What are your personal standards for determining success in your internship?  What have you done to ensure that you meet those standards?

**I have reached my first goal of doing every job in our terrain park, but I have yet to master each task. I am completely sufficient, and do an acceptable job at every task. I made it a point to show interest in every job, and my manager knew this was a goal of mine. Each week I would try to take on a new task or two. If I had observed and knew what to do I jumped right in. on the other hand if I wasn’t totally sure, I would ask for help. Practice makes perfect, and there will always be room to grow. This goal can go on forever, and I plan to continue to master these skills.**

My second goal was to figure out how my manager and supervisors got into the position they are today. I have a pretty good idea of this, however there is always more to learn. I have asked each individual specific question, which answer a lot. But a story of a past problem or task sometimes can share a lot of info too. The hard part about this though is that there isn’t an easy way to get at these stories. Mostly, they need to arise naturally. For this fact, I think this goal will continue into the future as well.

If I am happy with my work, then that is generally my standard. I don’t like to do a task half way; I like to give all or nothing so generally this has worked for me in the past. In this specific situation however, I tend to seek approval from my manager and supervisors. Not in a needy way though. In a way that shows I care about what I am doing. Also, I know how much experience my managers and supervisors have and it would be irresponsible of me not to learn from them. They are a wealth of knowledge about this specific field, and I feel lucky to have them help me.