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## **WPI graduates find a permanent place at P.J. Keating Company**

LUNENBURG \_ Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) is making a name for itself over at P.J. Keating Company. Two of the college's engineering graduates have been hired as full-time employees after spending time there as interns.

According to Jim Reger, president of P.J. Keating Company, the company has an average of 5-6 interns who work there each year.

"These two young men from WPI made quite an impression on us. So much so, that we brought them back after their graduations," Reger said.

Today, WPI graduate Brendan Devereaux, is P.J. Keating Company's assistant site manager for the company's Cranston, R.I. location. He began working at P.J. Keating Company as an intern during the summer of 2007.

"I actually got in touch with Jim Reger, and he let me know they had an internship. At the time, I had no idea what I was looking for, I just wanted some experience," Devereaux said.

Devereaux, an industrial engineering major, said working at P.J. Keating Company gave him the ability to try out many different areas within the company.

"I got to see all sorts of things from the business side to paving, sales calls and the workings of the plants. This was just great for me, and the experience was something I could take to any company," he said.

Devereaux said the variety of experiences enabled him to get a wealth of knowledge that he might not have gotten interning elsewhere.

"I thought this was great, because with engineering you can sort of get pigeon-holed and miss the opportunity to develop some different skills such as learning how to work with unions, doing accounting, etc. Working at P.J. Keating Company helped me to be more well-versed," he said.

When Devereaux returned to college after his summer internship, he didn't assume a position would be available for him at P.J. Keating Company after his graduation in 2008.

"I was going to all the job fairs, etc. when Jim called me in to discuss a new program the company was doing," Devereaux said. "I came in as a liaison working with consultants who came in from our parent company, Oldcastle."

From there, Devereaux went on to become the assistant site manager at P.J. Keating Company's Cranston site.

“The thing for me that was great about working at P.J. Keating Company is that they are a part of Oldcastle, which is a huge company. However, when you are at P.J. Keating Company, you don’t feel like you are a part of a huge company. I feel this company and job fit my personality,” he added. “It’s really been great here, and I consider myself very lucky to have a job.”

Another WPI alumni, Nathan Levesque, has also found a home at P.J. Keating Company.

“I was a civil engineering major, and after the summer of my sophomore year, I got an intern job with P.J. Keating Company doing a city-wide project in Fall River, Mass.,” Levesque said.

Levesque worked with P.J. Keating Company Paving Supervisor Peter Pavao, a friend of Levesque’s father, who had initially suggested the college student interview with the company.

“I ended up pretty much being his assistant, helping him out. I worked there that summer, and they asked me to come back the following year,” Levesque said.

Levesque said after graduation from WPI, he didn’t really look much beyond P.J. Keating Company for employment.

“They are good guys, and I’ve enjoyed working there,” he said.

Levesque was in fact hired by the company and currently is the construction superintendent at the Acushnet southern branch.

“I’m pretty much supervising crews, setting up trucking and paving, and on the job construction,” he said.

“It is always a pleasure to watch our interns grow and develop into their roles here at P.J. Keating Company,” Reger said. “It’s even more of a pleasure to be able to bring them back as full-time employees. As interns they were already acclimated to our company, which is a plus right off the bat. Our intern program has proven time and time again to be a positive one.”

Since 1923, P.J. Keating Company’s primary business is quarrying stone, manufacturing Hot Mix Asphalt, and the construction of Asphalt Paving Projects. The company is headquartered in Lunenburg, MA, with locations in Dracut, Acushnet and Cranston, Rhode Island.