

## OSU Design Network | Industry Connect 2020

### Advice from Industry Professionals

#### **Question: How did you get started in your career?**

**Moona Page:** I got my start in the industry doing two internships in college, and that helped me build my resume, which allowed Dillard's department stores to recruit me out of college for an assistant design position. I was designing menswear as an assistant and learning all the ins and outs about the industry and apparel and product development. And then that grew into a design role, and then that designer role allowed me to, you know, travel the world and really see some factories make apparel and opened up my eyes and I was hooked.

**Alex Aujero:** I graduated from Oregon State in 2004 with degrees in interior design and in housing studies. My first job was with an architecture firm in Portland, where I was hired to design senior living facilities. After a few years there, I moved over to commercial design and really started focusing on the workplace. The steps that I took when entering the workforce, one was maintain a good relationship with one of my professors and sort of mentors, Carroll Foy, and she is the person who helped me get my first job in Portland. In fact, the person, the project manager, the lead designer I was working under had also graduated from Oregon State. But really, when I started, I just continued my work ethic from OSU and never stopped learning and trying to do better.

**Molly Durbin:** So originally, I thought I was going to be a nurse, actually, and I started off at Arizona State. And then during my sophomore year, I started working for Nike in their factory store and that's where I really found my passion for retail. So, I decided to change majors halfway through, transfer to Oregon State and started in the merchandising management program. I was able to network a little bit and reach out to people and set up times to shadow them, so I could really get an idea of what the industry was like. And then I also attended lots of Oregon State events, and I just really focus on building connections there. And then the other thing that I was able to do was talk with Brigitta, I highly recommend talking with your professors. She was able to help me get connected with Kroger, and that's when I applied for their internship and was lucky enough to receive a position as an intern in the junior apparel buying department.



Shortly at the end of the internship, I was offered the opportunity to interview and gained a position as an assistant buyer.

**Becca Johnson:** So, getting into the industry was a bit of a journey for me. Between my junior and senior year at Oregon State, I had an internship at Fred Myers and there I had an awesome boss who also went to Oregon State, really mentor me that summer and get me the skills I needed to enter into the apparel industry. I went back my senior year to finish off, and between that year she had changed jobs over to Columbia Sportswear, and she shot me a note and said, we would love to have you interview over here for some internships that we've got over at Columbia Sportswear. So, after I graduated Oregon State, I started a second internship at Columbia Sportswear and the rest was history. I've been at Columbia Sportswear ever since, and really being able to learn from designers and grow, ask a lot of questions, and do all of the grunt work is really what I did to kind of build that foundation to be able to grow into a designer at Columbia. All of my career and all the different product categories I've worked on over the years have really set me up for this current leadership position that I have.