



## Brian Denton

### Hometown

Naperville, IL

### College

Bradley University

### Scholarship

Mary T. Washington Wylie Internship  
Preparation Program

In 2014, I was invited to participate in the Mary T. Washington Wylie Internship Preparation Program. This program was an amazing opportunity to acquire a great amount of knowledge in a short three days. One part of the program that I found to be extremely beneficial was hearing advice from current Public Accountants. After returning to school, I immediately adjusted parts of my four year plan to better suit my own personal goals. These adjustments originated from ideas that I heard during my three days in Chicago. Something else that stood out to me was the constant echo of the word “network”. I honestly wish I had counted the number of times this word was used through the program! The older that I get the more I realize the true importance of networking. I now make an effort to constantly “sell” my professional skills whenever the opportunity presents its self.

An example would be my most recent internship over the summer with a General Growth Properties in Chicago. One of my classmates’ father works for this company and was looking for accountants for a summer internship. By communicating the skills I have developed through school, and previous positions, I was able to obtain the internship even without physically being able to come to Chicago for an interview (at the time I was unable to leave Peoria). Networking is an important skill that does not just stop after college! The saying “It’s not what you know, but who you know” constantly sticks with me throughout my career as a student, and an accountant. I hope to continue developing the networking skills that I learned during my time with the Illinois CPA Society.