

I was honored to be selected to attend the Troy University Surplus Lines Symposium in Birmingham, Alabama. This was a great experience that introduced me to a completely new side of the insurance industry that I did not know existed. The symposium offered me a chance to meet with different companies and to talk about the upcoming opportunities that their company has for students.

When I first arrived down in Birmingham on Friday, there was a career fair of about 10 to 12 companies in the excess and surplus lines industry. The opportunity to meet with these recruiters was a great experience and has opened up doors to great possibilities. Many of these companies were offering either summer internships or full time jobs after graduation. I was able to talk extensively with Westrope and All Risks about the possibility of doing an internship during the upcoming summer. The networking I did down in Alabama could lead to an internship.

The second day of the symposium was filled with informational speakers about the excess and surplus lines industry. These speakers gave me great insights to what the industry offers and why it exists in today's world. It was exciting to hear about the future and where the industry is going. The future looks bright and the job opportunities are there. The second day also allowed us to network with the other students that attended the symposium from different schools. It was very beneficial to hear about what other students not at Illinois State are doing. Networking with other students that have the same career interests as you was very informative.

The Troy University Surplus Lines Symposium was a great experience. The benefits that came from this symposium were endless. I came away with so much new information and contacts that will help me in my future career aspirations. I would recommend any student looking to learn more about the excess and surplus lines industry to highly consider attending the symposium.