

**"On-site/Insight isn't just about building Buildings  
....it is about building People too."**

## **My Experience with EDS Builders – Joe Leaver**



Recently, I completed my fourth year of Construction Management Education at the University of Wisconsin Stout. For years, I had been exposed to various aspects of construction, thru my father. This influenced me to pursue a career in the building industry. My schooling has given me some experience and tools I will need to succeed, however, I realized that the most valuable knowledge must be attained through field experience.

After an internship with a large demolition and earthwork contractor in Ohio I was eager to get another supervising position with more involvement with subcontractors. I was immediately interested when I discovered that EDS Builders was contracted to do the White Lake School addition and remodel, I researched EDS online and learned how successful the company had been in the past.

I was fortunate to be able to obtain an internship at EDS. I arrived at the job with a mixed sense of anxiety and excitement. At first I felt slightly overwhelmed with the onslaught of information, but later I realized how Doc and the EDS team worked to help me learn about every aspect of what was happening on the job site. They took me step by step processing the data and progressing toward a finished project.

What I now realize is that when it comes to building the perfect project for a client, EDS sets the bar quite high. First of all, Doc really knows how to work with people: He makes everyone on the job feel appreciated. He is wise enough to recognize the work they do. He's always reinforcing it with me.

Doc has a keen insight into how people feel about things and he adapts to them. He has definitely changed my approach to working with people. I have since adapted his method, because he's proved to me that working with people is 95% of the job. Let me give you an example of how others view him. One day I was on the roof talking to a roofer. We had just resolved some important issues regarding the roof. In the process of the conversation the roofer stopped....looked at me, and said, "Doc is a pretty good guy to work with, isn't he?" That's how everyone on the project feels.

You may not know it at the time, but, Doc is always teaching. He allows me, in fact, wants me, to take the reins of a project so that afterwards he can review it with me. It becomes a teaching moment. We discuss it and then he shows me how I can make it even better.

And he doesn't shy away from problems either: He likes to tackle things head on but with a calming attitude. He remains calm and that affects everyone involved in the problem.

I've gone from being a nervous intern, to the EDS Site Assistant, helping all the subs with virtually any stage of the construction project and being able to do almost anything requested of me with confidence.

This internship has been the best experience I could have had in the construction industry. It has meant a lot to me knowing that I am working with a company that has so much integrity in the field.

- Joe Leaver  
EDS Construction