

SUCCESS STORY



www.bioalberta.com

kastxventures.com

“Being a part of the life sciences industry gave me a sense of purpose beyond myself every day.”

As a business student majoring in Operations Management at the University of Alberta, Bryce Schumacher was seeking to apply his skills in new and interesting industries. When he learned about a summer work opportunity with KASTx Ventures (KASTx), he saw the opportunity to do just that.

“I’ve recognized the diverse applications of ‘operations’ across various industries,” he said. “As an SME venture capital firm focusing on biotech, KASTx presented a truly distinctive opportunity that stood out on the job board.”

KASTx’s portfolio consists of companies working to improve societal outcomes in health, technology, and environmental sustainability. The company’s experienced team works closely with company founders to grow their ventures, often based on their own scientific research. Growing these companies requires multidisciplinary team to help meet important outcomes. For Christian Idicula, Chief Operating Officer at KASTx, Bryce provided much-needed support in helping KASTx’s companies grow.

“KASTx is fundamentally about making meaningful impact through our portfolio companies, advancing through key milestones,” Christian said. “Bryce was continuously called upon to take on new challenges, immerse himself in new subject matter, and help us move a number of important initiatives of our business forward.”

For Bryce, this also meant taking part in a variety of tasks that challenged him to grow his skills, trust his instincts, and develop his independence as he worked to help navigate new avenues for



Bryce Schumacher

the company. Applying this experience within the biotech sector he said, meant his experience also helped him connect to a sense of meaning in his day-to-day work.

“Being a part of the life sciences industry gave me a sense of purpose beyond myself every day,” he said. “One of the intriguing aspects of operations is its engagement in multifaceted tasks that collectively shape the overarching strategy. KASTx offered me the privilege of embracing this diversity, fostering the expansion of my skill set. Throughout my journey, the organization's unwavering trust and support propelled my growth.”

Offering students work experience in biotech through BioAlberta's WIL program is important for fostering future talent, Christian said, who commented on the importance of both attracting and keeping new talent in the industry.

“Alberta's biotech sector needs bright, talented people to move our companies forward,” he said. “This starts with exposure to what we do. We can provide a breadth of insight into biotech that can be a catalyst for students to more deeply consider worth in the sector after graduation.”

WIL VOUCHER

Alberta

bio
alberta
Association for Life Sciences Industry