

# Scholar Persistence Pays Off

By Alejandro J. Galan-Ruiz

**THIS FALL, BALL STATE UNIVERSITY** accounting major Alex Galan did what many upper level accounting majors do in the fall ... he looked for an internship. Each year during the traditional “recruiting season,” students put on their best suits, finalize their resumes and practice their elevator speeches. From the countless career fairs and networking events with companies and firms searching for future CPAs, this can be a stressful but exciting time for students. As a graduate of the INCPAS Scholars program and an extremely engaged Indiana CPA Society student member, Galan was ready. He was prepared. Here he shares his story about his experiences this recruiting season.

**I UNLOCKED MY PHONE WITH** my right thumb and opened up an email, with a subject reading, “Recruiting Process Update.” My first thought was, “Yay! After several tries, I finally got an internship!” When I read the email my jaw dropped, my eyes grew wide, and my heart skipped a beat! The email was not something I expected to read ...

“At this time, we are unable to offer you a position with our firm.”

The thoughts that went through my mind were:

“I am not good enough ...”

“I have tried so hard and failed every time ...”

“I was not made to be a CPA ...”

“I want to change my major ...”

All these thoughts ran through my mind as I was reading through the email. My immediate reaction was to change my major and give up; however, I spoke with my mentor and friends about the situation. Every single person who I spoke with assured me that I had all the qualifications, but I needed to be more persistent. After hearing what they said, I remembered what my mentor, Chad Schenkel, CPA, (Crowe Horwath LLP) once said: “You can’t control everything, but you can control your effort. As long as you put 100 percent of your effort into something, you

will see the results in the end.” Keeping this in mind, I knew this was one of the many obstacles that I had to overcome. I had to stop doubting myself and continue to strive for the goals I had for myself.

I decided to continue to pursue the CPA designation despite my recent experiences with internship interviews. I talked to Ali Paul, leadership and outreach manager at INCPAS, and she mentioned that: “it was part of the process ... you will find the right fit and will make a difference in this profession.” Hearing this made me even more determined than before.

The rejection still stung but it was something that I would overcome. This experience made me realize that it takes a while to reach ones goals. I knew that when I finally got the internship I would appreciate it even more since I knew how hard it’d been to get there.

In my internship search I learned that determination and persistence are key parts of being successful in college and life. You must be very determined and persistent with what we want. There will be times when we must face different challenges in our life. Having a support system allowed me to overcome the obstacles that I faced. I am determined to find an internship with a firm or company that I fit in with and graduate with my accounting degree in the near future. 📌



**Alejandro Galan-Ruiz**

**INCPAS Scholars class of '12**

**Senior at Ball State University**

**Majoring in Accounting**