



# KidStart Corporate Initiative Intern Profile

**WILLIAM CRAWFORD** *KidStart Intern* Illinois College of Optometry

Although his first love is baseball, William Crawford spent the summer between his junior and senior years at King College Preparatory High School keeping his eye – and his future – on the ball in a whole new way. During his 8-week KidStart internship at the Illinois College of Optometry on Chicago's south side, William worked in the materials room, double-checked prescriptions in the lab, and took inventory and served patients in the newly remodeled Fait Family Eyewear Center.



Whether he was doing quality control or reception, William earned raved reviews. "William has been an outstanding employee. He's demonstrated superior

skill and maturity, and we have all found him to be a pleasure to work with," said Nancy DeMaso, William's immediate supervisor and director, optical service and material management operations at the Illinois College of Optometry. "I expect a very bright future for this fine young man."

"We're very much committed to being good community servants," said Arol Augsburger, O.D., president of the Illinois College of Optometry. Arol is a longstanding member of The Rotary Club of Chicago, which adopted the City of Chicago's KidStart Summer Jobs Program as its signature service project in its centennial year.

Giving back to the community is nothing new for the College, the largest provider of eye and vision care at a single location in Illinois. Half of the College's 80,000 patients per year are eligible for care through the Illinois Department of Public Assistance and 10 percent do not have any means to pay for needed care.

Participating in the KidStart Summer Jobs Program also gives The College the opportunity to help young people build their resumes.

"You can't get a good job unless you've had a good job," Arol said. "The hallmark of KidStart is to give students professional experience. These are very active, very bright, very articulate young people. It's been very rewarding to see them expand their horizons and to give them a first step in envisioning what that future might be."

In addition to offering summer jobs to two interns during the summer, Arol personally served as a mentor to William. They attended a Rotary Club luncheon at which Illinois State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka was the featured speaker. They toured the Union League Club's art collection, and Arol introduced William to many of Chicago's most prominent business leaders.

As a result of his summer at the Illinois College of Optometry, William is now considering pursuing a pre-optometry curriculum in college, followed by optometry school.

"I like dealing with patients," William said. "The lifestyle and flexible hours that may accompany being a successful optometrist also sound pretty appealing," William added with a big grin.

Based on his performance last summer, when it comes to achieving his future goals there's no doubt that William will hit it out of the park.

