



WJA Foundation Celebrates 2024 Ella Klein Internship Recipients

December 16, 2024 (New York, NY)—The WJA Foundation proudly highlights the achievements of this year's Ella Klein Internship recipients and participants, sponsored by Julius Klein Diamonds (JKD). This prestigious program provides transformable learning opportunities with some of the diamond and jewelry industry's most respected professionals. The WJA Foundation is honored to partner with JKD to provide key experiences to help women advance in their diamond and jewelry careers.

"At Julius Klein Diamonds, we are thrilled to offer this Internship Program to individuals who are passionate about diamonds and committed to pursuing a career in the diamond industry," says Mark Klein, Vice President of JKD. "Investing in education and training is essential for success in this field, and we are excited to help interns take their careers to the next level," he concludes.

This year's interns, Jamie Dunton and Gabriella Botelho, gained hands-on experience and unparalleled insights into the diamond trade. Through on-site training, they developed a deep understanding of diamonds evaluation, sales, and industry practices, setting a strong foundation for their professional growth.

Jamie Dunton, reflecting on her internship, shares, "Interning at JKD put my book knowledge to use and more. It helped me apply what I learned at GIA to actual scenarios. This experience also showed me some differences from the course teachings. There are nuances in the trade that don't exist in the textbooks (like specific terminology or writing both the shape & cut on the papers)."

Gabriella Botelho adds, "My education focused on bench work, CAD, and design, but I lacked diamond-specific knowledge. This internship filled that gap, giving me a comprehensive view of the diamond industry. Interacting with experts gave me a deeper, more practical understanding of the industry, especially regarding quality evaluation and trade practices. It's an intense, fast-paced program that offers invaluable hands-on experience. I learned far more in real-time at Julius Klein than I could have on my own or in a longer course.

Nikia Levesque-Meyer, President of the WJA Foundation, emphasized the impact of this program, "The Ella Klein Internship is a shining example of what can be achieved when industry leaders like Julius Klein Diamonds invest in the next generation of talent. Jamie and Gabriella's experiences reflect our mission to empower women and provide transformative opportunities that propel their careers forward. We are proud to support these incredible women and look forward to seeing their continued contributions to our industry."

About Julius Klein Diamonds:

The Julius Klein Group (JKG), started in 1948, prides itself on being the preeminent diamantaire in the global diamond industry. With an extraordinary inventory of the finest quality diamonds (specializing in 2+ carats), exceptional stones, hard-to-find items, and unique diamond jewelry, JKG



is an all-encompassing supplier to its retail partners. Julius Klein currently boasts sales offices in New York, Tel Aviv, and Hong Kong.

The Kleins' diamond expertise and passion are currently being passed down to a third generation of diamantaires who are continuing the family's tradition of excellence in a new diamond era. As a global force today, Julius Klein's core philosophy is to provide every customer with the right diamonds that satisfy their unique needs.

To learn more about WJA Foundation, visit www.womensjewelryassociation.com, or email info@womensjewelryassociation.com.

About the Women's Jewelry Association:

The Women's Jewelry Association (WJA) is a trailblazing organization dedicated to empowering and advancing women within the jewelry and watch industries. In 1983, WJA was founded on the belief that women could create lasting change by connecting, mentoring, and recognizing one another's accomplishments. Today, WJA stands as a global network of professionals spanning diverse roles, from designers and manufacturers to retailers and media representatives. The organization's mission is to facilitate professional growth through networking, education, leadership development, and a wide range of member services. Through its numerous chapters across the U.S. and around the world, WJA offers a spectrum of benefits, including networking events, educational programs, mentoring initiatives, scholarships, and grants. For more information about WJA, or to become a member, visit www.womensjewelryassociation.com.

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