

Steven Kersten

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Summary

Pennsylvania State University Graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Materials Science and Engineering. Background in process chemistry and industrial lab skills. Possess unique processing ability through a mixture of STEM education and real-world industry experience. Strong critical thinker with a passion for hands-on problem solving.

Education

The Pennsylvania State University, College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, State College, PA August 2018
Bachelor of Science in Materials Science and Engineering

Relevant Work Experience

Process Chemist · Gelest, Inc. January 2019-February 2020

- Responsible for the successful and continuous operation of multiple industrial labs containing reactors ranging from 10 to 1,000 gallons in size
- Synthesized silicon polymers, organosilanes, and other metalorganic compounds in both large- and small-scale batch processes, working both individually and with a team to ensure a safe and efficient lab environment
- Troubleshoot systems through understanding of reaction chemistry, mechanical equipment, and process design
- Work with engineers to implement improvements to safety and efficiency of chemical processes and equipment
- Train new employees on the methods and process design of each system, with an emphasis on safety
- Calculate process yields and results through ISO compliant reports, incl. computational use of Deacom ERP software to log process hours and keep material inventory updated
- Utilize characterization methods such as gas chromatography to aid with lab processes and decision-making
- Employ proper PPE usage in hazardous lab conditions in order to maintain personal and lab safety standards

Co-Founder · Synapse Labs, LLC / DUEL June 2020-Present

- Co-Founded Synapse Labs, LLC and established DUEL, a nootropic-focused supplement brand
- Lead brand creation through recognizing a niche in the marketplace and utilizing background in science to formulate, design, and offer a first-of-its-kind product from the ground up
- Developed brand presence through the running of social media accounts and exposure practices
- Built affiliate relations through running of promotions and sponsorships
- Drove sales through creation and of personalized marketing campaigns via Facebook Business Suite, with ad generation implemented across social media platforms
- Designed brand website, along with graphical contributions to logo, product design, and packaging

Roofer · Jottan, Inc. Summer 2015-2016

- Learned basic construction management and workplace safety, operating tools and heavy machinery
- Worked in teams with precision under strict time constraints to deliver a high-quality product

Project Experience

“Characterization of Refractory Bricks” September 2017-May 2018
Team Leader State College, PA

- Lead team of 3 in working with HarbisonWalker Intl. to characterize vapors in organic refractory bricks
- Created analysis models and documented process in order to be replicated by partner company
- Presented research, results, and conclusions to Pennsylvania State University Materials Science Dept. faculty and students

Skills and Training

- *Safety:* Completed 40hr PA OSHA HAZWOPER certification course, learning skills essential to hazardous waste emergency response
- *Microsoft Office:* Notable proficiency with Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, and Word. Experience using Microsoft Suite to create written reports, present data, and illustrate results and conclusions in a professional environment
- *Instrument Experience:* GC, TGA-MS, SDT, SEM, EDS, XRD, MATLAB, SolidWorks, C++, HTML5