

From: Jessie Rule
To: Brian Scott
Date: 4/14/2015
Subject: New Career at Valley Crest

Hey Brian!

I've been meaning to extend a thank you your way for a while.. I found out last week just how much of a hand you had in me getting this awesome job at Valley Crest, and I just want you to know how much I appreciate you putting in a good word for me. It really means a lot. And it comes from the heart when I say I am so grateful for your dedicated support.

I'm going to send the rest of this email to the other profs, too..

As most of you guys know, I am now a purchasing agent for Valley Crest Landscape Development. Thank you so much for being awesome references. It's my 4th week in the job, and today I got to visit some of our local Orange County job sites. Although I can visualize the material I'm buying and imagine what the guys do on a day-to-day basis, seeing it in person makes all the difference in the world. I've already had some really exciting experiences in my short time at Valley Crest. I accompanied my boss to Coachella/Thermal area where they grow huge expanses of date palms (not to mention grapes, citrus and... Carrots?! So cool.). Anyway, we drove all the way there to tag 82 palm trees for a shopping center we're working on, and they have to be in perfect shape, arrow straight, and are only allowed a 1' variance. These deglet noor dates (just learned there are many different kinds) we're tagging are 32' tall! And there are so many to weed through.. I haven't gotten to see them dig these palms yet, but the process sounds so awesome. For such a huge plant, they dig the tiniest root ball.. Gotta love them spaghetti roots! And the diamond pattern on the trunks is done with super sharp shovels.. And they're transported 5 or 6 per semi all the way back up to Irvine, where they'll be installed in this shopping center, where they'll look like perfect giant green soldiers all in a row.. And I can say I was a part of it. I'm heading back out in the morning (by myself, because I got this!) to meet the architect and the grower to select the remaining palms. I'm excited and proud.

The picture at the bottom is a 20' box Jacaranda that was moved from its original home in Irvine up the road to a beautiful park (in progress). This giant weighed in at a whopping 186 tons and took the biggest crane in the state of California (along with a support team of multiple semi's) to make the trip to its new resting place. Wish I could've seen it in action! There are a multitude of other smaller (but still massive) trees with similar stories in this park as well. It's just incredible.

I just want to tell you all how grateful I am for everything you put into horticulture program, and for the dedication you have to all of us students. I'm constantly bragging about how wonderful the program is and how the professors truly care about the success of their students. Thanks for everything, you guys are the best!

Sincerely,
Jessie Rule