

Kalebb Vanfossen Training Designer Roche Diagnostics Indianapolis, Indiana

Q: Can you tell us a little bit about Roche Diagnostics and your responsibilities?

A: Roche is kind of the full package as far as a biotech company goes. We have a pharmaceutical and medical diagnostics division. Pharmaceutical makes drugs that treat illnesses. My specific part in the big puzzle is working on and teaching people how to work on the instruments that detect those illnesses in the first place.

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: I went to the University of Indianapolis, UIndy, Greyhounds. I was working on my bachelors in chemistry.

Q: What was it about Central Indiana that made you stay here after graduation?

A: The opportunities you have here specifically for the biomed industry or science in general... everyone you know in this industry has fingers here in Indiana. Obviously, you have Roche, you have Eli Lilly. Companies that support these giants, these biotech giants – Salesforce, SAP, they all exist here in the Indiana area. In my field this is the place to be. This is as good as it gets in biotech.

Q: Who would make a good candidate to work at Roche?

A: Roche hires experts in what they do. So, if they've hired you, you should feel good knowing that they believe you're an expert in what you do. We're working on precision scientific instruments. These are instruments doctors rely on to make clinical decisions. Someone's life is on the other end of that result. You are a part of the clinical decision making.

Q: What do you like best about working at Roche?

A: So, what I like most about Roche... I came from the military as a medic and I had a passion for medicine. I still get to feel that I get to use my passion for science, research, analytical thinking and my passion for medicine every day.

My Grandma got diagnosed with cancer. And, when I found out what hospital she went to I knew it was one of the instruments I worked on that gave her the diagnostic result. My hands actually changed the outcome of my own family member's results. I'm able to take pride in helping other people but there's always that small smile like 'hey, she's fine now. She's in remission and everything's okay... and I was a part of that.'