



Alumni Spotlight: Nick Vanden '22

1. When were you a member of Leveraged Lion Capital and what positions did you hold?

I was in LLC from the second semester of my freshman year in 2019 through senior year in 2022. I started as an Associate Analyst in the Energy sector, then transitioned to Lead of the Energy sector during my sophomore year. In my junior year, I held the position of Director of Equity Research. During my senior year, I served as an active senior mentor.

2. What did Leveraged Lion Capital mean to you when you were on campus?

LLC was something I looked forward to – it was a place of exponential growth from both a hard and soft skills perspective. Every day I walked through those doors, I knew I was going to learn something new. LLC transformed my college experience both personally and professionally as I grew alongside like-minded students. It gave me a support group of driven, dedicated individuals who will be lifelong friends.

3. What advice do you have for members of Leveraged Lion Capital who are currently recruiting for internships?

Be persistent and genuine. Alumni want to support fellow Penn Staters, so take that first step by sending the email and making the call. If your message isn't initially received, don't let that discourage you, because, at the end of the day, alumni want to help you find your path. Be authentic when connecting with others. Share your story about what sparked your interest in LLC and pursuing a career in Finance. Differentiate yourself throughout the process by letting your intellectual curiosity, passion, and energy shine through.

Nicholas Vanden, a State College native, studied Finance at Penn State from 2019 to 2022. Prior to Penn State, he served as Chief Financial Officer of the Little Lion Fund. Upon joining LLC, Nick began in the Energy sector as a freshman, starting as an Associate Analyst, then progressing to Lead Analyst during his sophomore year. During his junior year, he took on the role of Director of Equity Research. After graduating, he entered his current role as a Trading Analyst on the Distressed Credit desk.

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