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EARL VINCENT LIESKE III

OBJECTIVE Following a relocation to Minnesota, I am looking to continue my professional and personal growth through a genuine love and passion for ornamental horticulture. I am looking for a position to apply my exceptional creative abilities, strong horticulture knowledge, proven plant buying, and business skills in a high-achieving, innovative, and team-oriented environment.

SKILLS & ABILITIES Strong & diverse horticulture knowledge with more than 25 years of academic & practical experience

- Exceptional plant buying
- Design & merchandising, both custom & retail
- Premier exterior/interior container design
- Strong worth ethic & unparalleled customer service
- Supportive leadership & communication
- Intuitive business sense
- Skillful in Counterpoint/POS

EXPERIENCE **MA'S LITTLE RED BARN, PERHAM, MN**
Floral Design | Nov. 2021 – Present

- Design interior floral arrangements, both custom & retail

CHALET NURSERY & GARDEN CENTER, WILMETTE, IL
Custom Design Lead, Plant Buyer/Manager | June 2011 – Sept. 2021

- Inventory, research, source, negotiate costs/terms, purchase, receive, inspect, price, and oversee product care and display of perennial, indoor & outdoor tropical plants
- Guide and assist exterior/interior custom container design; selecting and purchasing components including containers, plant material, hard goods
- Lead the team generating almost \$1.6M in retail sales in 2016, a 20% growth
- Apply tactics generating approximately \$200K in Custom Indoor Pot retail sales, a 23% growth from previous years
- Actively participate in The Chalet Farm Steering Committee & Safety Committee; leading the Spring Open House Committee & Employee Appreciation Party Committee
- Lead employee group seminars, creating in-house Supportive Leadership Program

- Participate in customer-driven service and facility improvement initiatives; lead implementation and execution
- Implement transition from generic perennial SKUs to cultivar-specific barcode labeling
- Direct and manage vendor relationships; visit nurseries; explore new products
- Participate in national trade events (Tropical Plant Industry Exhibition T.P.I.E.) and visit wholesale & retail tropical nurseries

CITY ESCAPE GARDEN & DESIGN, CHICAGO, IL

Annual, Tropical & Perennial Buyer/Horticulture Supervisor | 2008 –2010

- Manage plant purchasing (inventorying, sourcing, receiving, inspecting, pricing, & maintaining tropical, annual, perennial, & specialty plants)
- Assist in evaluation & maintenance of commercial accounts for Midway & O'Hare Int'l Airports
- Participate in sales/onboarding of new accounts including State Street Loop Alliance & Chicago City Hall
- Participate in selection & purchasing at regional/national trade fairs
- Lead seasonal design & merchandising; Christmas, Spring, & Fall displays
- Design four-season, high-end containers & in-house, on-site customized gardens

DELL PRIVATE ESTATE, DELL CORPORATION, AUSTIN, TX

Interior/Exterior Design Specialist & Horticulture Supervisor | 2005 – 2007

- Oversee and manage outdoor spaces and interior green spaces; assist with holiday & special event displays
- Select, purchase, design, install, & maintain color/annual beds; indoor/outdoor container displays

CHEEKWOOD BOTONICAL GARDENS, NASHVILLE, TN

Horticulture Supervisor/Garden Designer | 2004 –2005

AHNER'S GARDEN & GIFTS, ST. LOUIS, MO

Merchandise Manager | 2002 –2003

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, CARBONDALE, IL

Graduate Assistant | 2000 –2002

EDUCATION

MASTER'S DEGREE OF SCIENCE, Ornamental Horticulture and Plant & Soil Science

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL | 2000

BACHELOR'S DEGREE OF SCIENCE, Ornamental Horticulture and Plant & Soil Science

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL | 1998

CERTIFICATE, ESTATE GARDEN MANAGEMENT, N.T.S. Scottish Craftsman Gardener

Threave School of Gardening/Castle Douglas, Scotland, U.K. | 1997

HUMAN ECOLOGY STUDIES, General Studies

College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, ME | One Semester, 1996

ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE, Applied Science

Joliet Junior College, Joliet, IL | 1995

- Greenhouse management & floral production; nursery management; turf grass management; landscape design & management

INTERNSHIPS & VOLUNTEERING

West North Shore Condos, Condo Gardener Volunteer

Chicago, IL | 2013 - 2021

Open Lands Chicago, Volunteer

Chicago, IL | Occasional weekends 2013 - 2020

Holden Arboretum, Lantern Court Gardener

Kirtland, OH | 2000

Wrigley Memorial Botanic Garden, Collections Gardener

Catalina Island, Avalon, CA | 1998

Longwood Gardens, Greenhouse Display Gardener

Kennett Square, PA | 1998

Inverewe Gardens, Work Exchange Student/National Trust of Scotland

Poolewe, Scotland, U.K. | 1997

ONLINE PRESENCE

Instagram: [@earllieske](#)

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REFERENCES

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