

Mr. Speice

Independent Study Mentorship 2A

2 October 2019

Extending My Reach Via Symposium

Assessment 4 - Symposium Reflection

Date: 2 October 2019

Subject: Business Symposium Reflection

Assessment:

In the professional world, professional etiquette and networking is extremely important when reaching out and interacting with professionals. At the business symposium this past week, I had the opportunity to engage with other passionate individuals and experienced professionals to build upon skills of professional etiquette and networking.

Professional networking allowed me to gain new perspectives over the professional world and more specifically perspectives pertaining to the career of a software developer. Professional networking led me to gain relevant information on how to improve a professional personality. Going through the interviews with professionals gave way to opportunities to become familiar with the interview process and gain practice for informational interviews with other professionals. In addition to gaining insight into the professional world, I was introduced to aspects of the computer science world that otherwise would never have been considered. These newly introduced fields are something to consider to pursue in future years whether it be in the ISM program or beyond.

Student networking was equally beneficial. While interacting with professionals exhibits aspects of the professional world, interacting with students significantly increases the resources

available to me. These resources are immensely beneficial because of the potential for future use whether if it allows me to gain informational interviews for ISM or if it is used beyond the ISM program. Collectively speaking, student networking sped up a conglomeration of passionate individuals and professionals, something that may have taken months or even years.

Professional etiquette was something important to gain from this experience as well. We practiced professional etiquette through two practice interviews. In doing these interviews, we gained information that will make our professional ventures more successful while contributing to maturing our business personalities. In addition, through improving the weak aspects of professional etiquette at an interview, developing a business personality that standouts in future interviews will be much easier. In doing this, the professionals that are interviewed will more likely want to mentor me or conduct follow up interviews; therefore, this will make the ISM journey significantly easier while allowing me to grow as a person.

Despite the positive aspects of professionalism and networking that I attained from the symposium, there still seemed to be a handful amount of drawbacks. One such instance of this was prior to the actual symposium. Going into the symposium, I was not really sure what the objective of symposium was until a bit later I got involved. This, in turn, caused me to not take total advantage of the opportunity we were given, especially to student network. However, in similar events in the future, knowing my objective will be much easier and something I plan ahead for. Additionally, preparing myself for these types of events ahead of time will allow me to bring my very best.

Reflecting for the future, business symposium has brought me closer to transforming into a full-fledged professional. The skills gained at symposium are not to help just in the ISM

program but in life as a whole because of their applicability to the real world. However, simply going to business symposium will not suffice. In order to take full advantage of the experiences and lessons learned at symposium, it will be necessary to actually implement the advice and practice everything I have learned to this point forward. Only then will the experiences at business symposium be truly worthwhile and meaningful.