

## How one trip to San Francisco changed my outlook on the private sector

My name is Mykelle Richburg and I am a first year MPA student with a concentration in Nonprofit Management in the Trachtenberg School. I found about the Career Quest program over the summer and was eager to apply. Although my previous experience has been focused on the nonprofit sector, I welcomed the opportunity to explore the private sector. Participation in this program meant traveling to a new city and learning about the culture. Prior to San Francisco, we were prepped on what to expect, how the companies operate and how to prepare for the trip. While I understood that the culture was relaxed compared to culture on the east, I was still surprised. The first company that we visited was Airbnb. Immediately, I was taken away by seeing all of the denim and sneakers especially on a Tuesday. Usually, the casual day of dress is Friday; however, in San Francisco they are casual every day. As we toured the company, I appreciated how they made sure that their workers were comfortable throughout the work day. From different work stations throughout the office to water/tea stations, going to work can be enjoyable. Other companies that we visited were similar to Airbnb in terms of employee satisfaction such as CBS Interactive, Facebook, and Kiva. Additionally, I liked learning about the social initiatives that each company had. Coming from the nonprofit sector, I appreciated how they still took on social issues and allowed me to connect with the company on another level. My favorite company that we visited was the Chan Zucker Initiative. Although it is a relatively new organization, they are working extensively to “help accelerate the pace of social progress.” I enjoyed touring the organization and learning about their Justice & Opportunity Initiatives. After this trip, I will heavily consider working in the private sector and could see myself pursuing an opportunity in San Francisco.