

## George Washington University Career Quest Blog

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### An Opportunity of A Lifetime

When I heard I was accepted to the San Francisco Career Quest Trip, I was so excited and happy. I was excited because I never been to the West Coast and I always wanted to go to California but never could afford it. I knew before the trip that I wanted to ensure that I kept an open mind and soak up all the advice that the companies told us.

Our group visited Facebook, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Air BnB, Kiva, Milliman, Gap Inc, Genentech, US Bank and CBS Interactive. The advice that these companies gave us was incredible. Also the work that all of these companies are accomplishing is truly mind blowing and inspiring.

I learned three lessons from touring these incredible companies and listening to the panels.

1. San Francisco companies truly care about their employees.

When we visited Facebook, Facebook employees told us that they get breakfast, lunch and dinner free. They also receive great benefits from health care to transportation. The culture in San Francisco is very laid back, they even have a game area in many of the companies we visited. We noticed that although most of the companies had a laid back culture, they still make sure to get their work done. Work Hard, Play Hard!

2. Keep an Open Mind

I ensured to keep an open mind during the trip. Although most of the companies focused on technology, I learned that government is intertwined into them. Many of the companies have a government and legal team to ensure their companies are following the law. I also have a passion for service and all of the companies had some sort of corporate responsibility intertwined into their mission and work.

### 3. Follow Your Dreams and Never Give Up

Many of the companies we visited started off small then expanded. Gap Inc was founded by Donald Fisher and Doris Fisher, the company started with one store and now has triple that! Facebook was founded by Mark Zuckerberg in his dorm at Harvard University and now has offices and employees around the world. All of these companies taught me that if you have a dream continue to work on that dream and never give up.

Career Quest was an amazing experience! I truly thank the Career Quest Team for selecting me for this incredible opportunity. I am forever grateful!