

A Wonderful Surprise

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In one phrase, my experience with Career Quest exceeded my expectations. Not only did I have the opportunity to visit high-level industrial corporations, but I also gained valuable career development advice that has helped me in navigating my own career path.

It was an eye-opening experience to see first-hand how these major companies operate. The site visits helped me to see the value in understanding what a company is at its core, aside from the products they produce and the reputation they have. Some of the sites I was expecting to be “wowed” by didn’t meet my expectations and some of the sites that I thought would have no relevance to myself or my major turned out to be the most informative and helpful. Given that there were no set guidelines the companies were supposed to follow in operating their site visits, the way in which these were conducted were very telling of the company’s environment and the things they value. For example, on our visit to Milliman which was the company I leased expected to find interest with, I felt incredibly welcomed and impressed by their willingness to hear from us and share their experience and advice.

In addition to the site visits, I also liked the things we did as a group on career development. Even though this wasn’t directed towards career development, I especially appreciated the debrief we did at the end. Hearing from everyone and getting their take on the experience and how to make sense of the trip overall was extremely beneficial to me.

Aside the career aspect, Career Quest linked me with students who I probably otherwise wouldn’t have met. It was an amazing opportunity to be able to share ideas with other students, learn about their experiences, and receive advice from fellow students. Some of my greatest learning experiences on the trip was listening to the types of questions some of the other students asked, which reflected on some of the things they value in a company. This gave me insight on not just the jobs a company can offer me, but also what the work environment is like and what kind of aspects would make me want to work for that corporation. The student comradery is what made the experience so enjoyable and I am happy I got the opportunity to spend that time with them.

Overall, I enjoyed my time with Career Quest Seattle. Being able to experience Seattle, WA, a place I had never visited before, and see what it would be like to live there while seeing some of the major job opportunities they have to offer was invaluable. I am very grateful I had the opportunity to go and connect with the people I did on this trip. Going into this experience I doubted I would walk away with anything beneficial given the companies were not directly related to my major. However, this opportunity provided me with something I couldn’t have imagined, and I am happy I went!