

A Summer Week in Seattle

This summer I received the opportunity to visit Seattle, Washington for four days with a cohort of 16 students from the George Washington University for a career exploration trip. It was a chance to learn about major companies which were based there and experience the city. I went in knowing there was a huge difference between the professional environment on the east coast versus the west coast. But at the same time, was unsure of what to expect from Seattle.

Throughout the trip we heard from alumni in a variety of fields. Each one had a different path to their current position and it gave us various perspectives on the professional world. I learned the value of paths which weren't direct and how important it was to find what you enjoy as well as what you don't enjoy. It is also important to focus on the mission of a company. For a lot of the site visits we did, the mission was what brought each and every person at the company together and really believing in that is what gave a lot of purpose to the work of the employees. I have really re-centered my job search on purpose going forward.

People really had amazing things to say about the Seattle as a whole. The way people operate there is very different than the east coast (as to be expected), but being there allowed me to understand how that translates into a lifestyle. The relaxed work environment and extracurricular activities were the highlights for those with careers in Seattle. I had a great time getting to try a variety of different local ice creams and other cuisines throughout the city, but I know there is so much of the city that I wasn't able to see and explore.

This trip overall really grew my perspective and understanding about the professional world and the specific working environment of Seattle. I appreciated the opportunity to discover a new place and connect with so many great people. It is definitely something that has grown me as a professional and I know that it has helped me gain more knowledge to help me with my career.