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Born and raised in Burkina Faso, I have always wanted to be an architect. However, when I moved to the United States, I worked as a cashier at Home Depot and at GW as an usher. Through these job experiences, I found that I have a passion for solving problems and engaging with people. It occurred to me that consulting might actually be the right path for me rather than architecture, but how do I get there?

One Saturday morning, I received a regular, standard email from George Washington University (GW) and opened it. While I was scrolling through the email, I saw the name Career Quest and instantly became curious about what this program entailed. I began reading only to find out that this program takes students to major cities in the United States to experience and interact with professionals in different industries free of cost. I applied immediately and got into the program with a cohort of ten other GW students. Over the course of the trip, we visited companies such as Delta, Care, Home Depot Corporation, Triage Consulting Group, The Carter Center, Google, CNN, and the Federal Reserve Bank.

Before attending the five day GW Career Quest Trek, I had never been to Atlanta. I was very excited to see a new city and learn about different career opportunities. I was unfamiliar with my career options as an international business and affairs major besides the routine government jobs my peers always spoke of. I knew I wanted to do something different, like consulting, but needed guidance on how to get there. Through meeting with professionals in tech such as Google, I discovered that there are many career paths in tech for non-engineering students. When we think about tech, we often think about software developers. Yet, every company needs people of different majors and backgrounds. Companies like Google need individuals with knowledge of industries from finance to sociology, to run a sustainable business. Learning this not only excited me, but drove me to further pursue my career goals.

My experience in Atlanta with Career Quest was enlightening and informative. Throughout the site visits, certain themes kept resonating with me like the ability to adapt to change, knowing how to effectively negotiate, and working hard to get where you go to be in the future. Additionally, having mentors and a support system is critically important as well when getting started in your career. The Career Quest Trek taught me how to network with professionals and enable me to think deeply about the courses I am taking at GW. Coming into this experience with an open mind about new possible career paths allowed me to get the most out of this experience and I highly recommend it to my fellow peers.

Moreover, I learned that there are many types of consulting businesses through this program. They can range from a boutique to small consulting firms. Some are even better than the ones you usually hear about like the big four, reinforcing my interest in this industry. I firmly believe that whether you know the type of job you want or are still figuring out your career path, Career Quest is a lifetime opportunity trip that will help you find and land your dream job. Take this opportunity to explore careers path and network through the amazing Career Quest program.