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My friends from the west coast always love to boast about where they are from, even going as far as proclaiming the west coast is the best coast. Growing up, I had a personal bias, thinking that New Jersey's bagels and pizza were the pinnacle of life. With this in mind, I looked at moving to Washington D.C, would not be a cultural shock.

The culture of DC is similar to what I grew up seeing; people going to work in their suit and ties from 9 AM to 5 PM, then coming home to their family which they will eat dinner with, followed by sleep, and the same routine repeated the next day. This is how I expected my life to go when I am done with college and have settled down within the DC area. This trip opened up my eyes to what potentially my life could be like by working in San Francisco, due to their values being different.

Constantly throughout the trip we heard companies all talking about the impact they strive to make as individuals working at the firm. However, within firms on the east coast the majority of the time we hear people talking about what their value is to the company. Career Quest opened my eyes up as to what I need to look for in an office that I work in. Beyond the typical perks of Silicon Valley companies such as free gym membership and many meals being provided, what I now value is the culture of feeling like you are making an impact on a grand scale.

Career Quest was an opportunity to look at a side of the work force I never considered, not only geographically, but as well as the industry of technology. It is a trip that makes you reconsider what you are looking for in a company, which can benefit you in the long term.