

Gabrielle Fabre

### **Quest with the Best**

Over winter break, I had the incredible opportunity to attend Career Quest in San Francisco with a group of thirteen motivated students and wonderful career coaches from GW. Little did I know that this experience would dramatically alter both my career aspirations and my view on the job application process. I feel very lucky to have experienced San Francisco companies through the Career Quest lens, and I encourage students to apply to this life-changing program.

One of the greatest parts of Career Quest is that you get to experience companies like Google, Facebook, and Popsugar first hand. Not only do you tour these companies, but you also have the opportunity to sit down with current employees and ask them specific questions. In other words, you are able to experience what it would be like to be an employee for a few hours. I have to say one of my favorite stops was Popsugar. The current President is a GW alumna named Lisa Sugar who started her own company, which now has 450 employees. I believe that a company's environment and ambiance can significantly affect your work ethic and company culture. It was important for me to walk through the halls of these buildings, listen to employees chat amongst themselves, and eat the food in these extraordinary cafeterias. Thanks to Career Quest, I fully experienced these companies and left with a new perspective on what matters most to me in choosing my future company.

Another wonderful component of this program is its ability to expand on your networking skills. Not only were we expected to research these companies, but we were also required to dress appropriately and ask the right questions. These important skills helped me develop my networking potential, and as the week progressed I was more confident during conversations with employees. After each visit, I arrived at my hotel and searched for my new contacts on LinkedIn. I feel incredibly lucky to have made these connections, and I look forward to the application process.

Last, but not least, the most incredible part of this trip is the opportunity to create lasting friendships. The students on this trip were smart, motivated, and successful. They inspired me to be all that I can be. It was so great to be encouraged and supported by my peers. We were all good friends by the end of the trip and I plan to stay connected with them as I complete my senior year. I look forward to learning about their career paths and I am very excited about my future. This trip serves as an important reminder that GW is an incredibly well connected school. While one employee from Thumbtack mentioned that her RA was Kerry Washington, Google filled a room with six GW alumni. I want to thank the Career Quest staff for organizing such a phenomenal trip. Here's to a fulfilling and bright future, raise high!