

Alpha Balde
January 22, 2020

I remember hearing my alarm in the wee hours of Sunday morning after a night of partying. I immediately knew what it was and I was filled with dread. It was time to wake up and go to the airport to catch my 6am flight from Atlanta to Los Angeles. It was not that I did not want to go. I just suffer heavily from sleep inertia, and in my state of tiredness, there is rarely anything that matters enough for me to get up and go. But alas I did. I made it onto my flight in the nick of time and five hours later I found myself on the West Coast of the US for the first time in my life. Everything that followed was an experience, I never could have dreamed of.

I fell in love with LA to say the least. Everything about the city from the never-ending sunlight to the air of positivity in freedom kept me floating for the four days that I was there. I remember being on the Santa Monica Pier and feeling overwhelmed, but not in a bad way. I had always heard that California had a different feel to it, but I never truly understood what that meant. I certainly get it now. It seems like everybody in LA is on a journey, and the city acts as a guide.

The first day visiting companies was a great introduction for what to expect in the days that followed. I enjoyed Hulu mostly due to the industry professionals that were on the panel. They seemed to be very knowledgeable about their work and they conducted themselves in a sophisticated yet easy going manner. Following Hulu was the visit to Pacific Council. They did an excellent job at making nervous college students realize that we will be alright, that we will make it into successful careers. At the end of the first day, we visited Walt Disney Imagineering (WDI). Visiting WDI was like learning how a magic trick works. It was fantastic, and I think those are the most passionate employees I have ever met.

I thought that visiting WDI on the first day was an absolute mistake. I was so sure that it would be the absolute highlight of the trip and that no other employers would top that experience. I could not have been more wrong. I had never even heard of William Morris Endeavor and United Talent Agency (UTA) before stepping foot in Beverly Hills. Today as I write this, I think that I have found the career path that I want to pursue. This is why I will always appreciate my Career Quest experience. It introduced me to a new world that I never would have had the opportunity to see. As a result, I have applied to a summer internship in Los Angeles with the number one talent agency in the world, UTA and was just granted a video interview with them. As I sit in anticipation for what is to come next, I thank Career Quest for changing my life and opening my eyes to these wonderful opportunities.