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My experience participating in the LA career quest was remarkable and inspirational to say the least. I am currently a Data Science graduate student from India with a background in software engineering. I have always been fascinated by the diverse and ever-growing tech industries in California. My appreciation for The Golden State sprouted in middle school, when I was introduced to one of my favorite bands, the Red Hot Chili Peppers. I was amazed by how beautifully this band described California in their lyrics and wanted to see the destination for myself.

Consequently, when the opportunity came to be a part of George Washington University's (GW) LA Career Quest 2020, I was thrilled to apply and learn of my acceptance into the cohort. I was introduced to some of the best places to work in LA. This program allowed me experiences I had only read or heard about previously, which I am incredibly thankful for.

From the streaming platform giant, Hulu, to one of the biggest Hollywood studios, Universal, I was fortunate enough to absorb knowledge of the tech working cultures as well as various other kinds of industries. These experiences opened my perspective to differing opportunities available in several work arenas and paved the way for building new professional connections. So, while I was expecting the site visits to be an insightful journey into these organizations, what I gained from the trip was much, much more. I acquired awareness into the daily life of industry veterans and shared in their respective journeys.

I also had a great time sharing this wonderful LA experience with an amazing group of students. Our diverse background added unique vantage points to the discussions. We all got along well and have continued to keep in touch since meeting on the trip.

I would also like to thank Ben Cerny, Steve Scordo and Nellie for being great mentors throughout the Career Quest experience. Their continued support and guidance were instrumental to getting the most out of the excursion.

The Career Quest program organized by GW is an amazing opportunity to learn about different organizations, different work cultures and most importantly adding fresh perspectives to existing ideas while building solid connections. I would encourage students to apply for the forthcoming Career Quests and be a part of one of the best experiences at GW!