

Research Assessment #4

Name of Professionals: Rick Denton, Felix Meneses, Nickquolette Barrett

ISM Alumni: Eden Bohanon, Zhaira Castiniano and Taha Amed

Event: ISM Business Symposium

Location: Independence High School

Date of Event: October 9, 2019

Assessment:

Last week in ISM, we had a Business Symposium at Independence High School, which was basically a great opportunity for students in ISM to improve proficiency, build connections with ISM students from other schools and professionals in the workforce, and reflect on past actions that will strengthen resumes and opportunities in the real world. I got to meet three professionals who gave me constructive criticism to help me in the future, and I was able to connect with other students and compare how the ISM classes are at different schools. Everything I learned at the Symposium gave me confidence to keep pursuing my goals and face any obstacles that may come along the way.

Both professionals I interviewed had consulting backgrounds and gave me great insight about what I can expect to experience in the long run as I delve deeper into this field. They also gave me great feedback such as having a firmer handshake, staying passionate throughout the interview, and having good eye contact throughout the interview. The professionals also gave me advice on how to approach the professional world as I get into college. Some of the interactions that they exemplified from their high school experience to the real world made me really surprised actually. One of the professionals told me about how his work with management actually had some calculus-related topics when he first began working. But overall, building connections with professionals who have already been through a lot and hearing their stories was a very unique and appreciative experience.

After talking to the professionals, I went on to meet other students in ISM from different schools, and we all discussed about the topics each of us were studying and our plans to be successful and get the most out of ISM. I knew FHS was ahead of the other schools, but while I was talking to others, it occurred to me that we were far ahead of them. Most of the students I spoke to were just getting started on calls and contacting professionals, whereas I already had two interviews and a third one scheduled. Although we all were at different stages of ISM, we all had the same goal: to learn and create something no has done before. Altogether, it was really cool to hear about the different ideas everyone had, and how they were planning to execute their strategies. The opportunity also gave me more connections with students who will be successful in their future.

The ISM Alumni, after the networking part of the Symposium, gave a student perspective on what to expect throughout the course of ISM as I move forward. It was helpful to hear from students who had already been through ISM, and were working or in college already because

they knew what we were doing in ISM right now. All of the students had people to connect their hardships with and know that after the course we will have a much stronger outlook in college and jobs. On the whole, the three Alumni had great stories to share with all of the current ISM students and explained how their experiences in ISM has shaped them into who they are today.

Finally, I got to listen to the special guest, Ms. Nickquolette Barrett, who works for a company called iRock Resumes, where they help individuals seeking to find jobs, experience, etc with strengthening their resumes. This was beneficial to me because it taught me that there are so many more things that I could add to my resume in the future, and how I can build my resume as I continue to pursue my dreams. Creating a resume is much more than just writing an essay overnight, it's about putting yourself out there to sell yourself as an advantageous individual. The speaker was very energetic and was very entertaining, but at the same time very knowledgeable about resumes, which helped me grasp more information on how to construct my resume in the future.

The Business Symposium was a great addition to my journey in ISM and it helped me gain more confidence and build connections that will add on to my future.