

Research Assessment #4

Date: October 13, 2017

Subject: 2017 Business Symposium Analysis

Assessment:

The Business Symposium this year was a really unique experience and gave me interaction with a multitude of professionals that I've never had before. I got to interview three professionals, heard multiple speakers and most of all, spent the day with fascinating ISM students from all over the district.

One of the biggest things I got from the day was having the opportunity to interview professionals from the DFW area. I interviewed with Ms. Jenny Page first, and I learned so much about what she does as City Secretary of Frisco. I particularly enjoyed interviewing with her because one topic that I love almost as much as nonprofit is politics, because I feel like it a more government-based way to help people. I really liked talking to her about all she did because it really made me think about where I want to go in ISM next year, how I could maybe work with the City of Frisco and study politics as opposed to law, because I was really interested in what she described as her work. I also interviewed with two other professionals, a chiropractor and a consultant in insurance. These interviews were more beneficial to me in terms of gaining communication skills because I was really thoroughly interviewed by the professionals, as much as one can be in 15 minutes. I got to experience different interviewing styles and from here on out, I feel like I picked up better interviewing strategies for the rest of the informational interviews I'm going to go on as a result of it.

I also attended a talk from Mr. Wyson, who runs Tumbleweed TexStyles, and I loved getting to hear his advice on how I can stay true to what I'm interested in and his best tips for being successful throughout the year in ISM, and more broadly, life. I still wonder after listening to him, what are the best ways to practice staying true to your interests? Other than simply getting involved in them, what can I do to turn what I like

to do into true passions? I really enjoyed his seminar, I just need to take away the advice he gave and implement his strategies into my everyday life.

I also got to listen to some alumni talk about how ISM impacted their life and what skills they got from ISM that still help them today. I really enjoyed getting to hear them speak because it felt like the effects of ISM weren't just theoretical anymore, there was evidence of their benefit, in these three girls that spoke. I still wonder, do they ever go back to the work they did in high school? Or will you grow independent from it after graduating?

As a whole, I thoroughly enjoyed the ISM Business Symposium. I got so much out of it in so many different capacities. I got to hear from ISM students past, present, and see how it would impact my future. After the Symposium, from here I want to go on to not only wholeheartedly embrace my field of study, but also become better at interacting with others in ISM, because I've now been given a glimpse at how there are truly so many people interested in so many different things, and that's one of the most incredibly aspects of this program. I would love to keep up with other people's work because I know that if my ISM journey is exciting this year, theirs will surely be too.