

Research Assessment #4

Date: October 12, 2018

Subject: 2018 Business Symposium Analysis

Assessment:

My second (and last) Business Symposium was incredible and informative. It was different from last year's in a lot of ways, but still really beneficial. It was such a unique experience once again to interact with different professionals and learn from the other ISM students in the district. Last year I certainly didn't take advantage of getting to speak with other students as much as I did this year, and while some of that was a product of the new ISM 2 rotations talking to ISM 1 kids, it was still a fantastic experience.

One of the biggest thing I got from the day was getting to talk to professionals from the DFW area. Last year I actually had the chance to do three interviews because there was a student shortage, and this year as an ISM 2 student I only did one interview, but I still got so much out of it. My interview was with Ms. Jeannie Rickey from Admissions at Texas Woman's University, which is a really cool opportunity seeing as how I'm currently applying to colleges and good interview skills are such a benefit with college interviews. She said I could improve my eye contact a little and gave me some pointers on my resume, but overall we had a really nice conversation and I enjoyed being able to speak with someone outside of the field I'm studying. I've gotten into this interviewing routine with local government, so talking to someone outside of that realm was a really nice reminder of general interview skills and conversation prep.

The other big part of the morning were my first three rotations, where I spoke with ISM 1 students from schools around FISD and tried to pass on advice and tips now being an ISM 2 student. I hope that I was able to pass on valuable information to the kids because they were all so nice and great to speak with. I think in ISM we have a tendency as students to get so involved in our own individual work, that it's hard to remember that we're all doing our own incredible things and there's so much value in that. Speaking with other students studying topics as varied as AI to Business, I really recognized how interesting everyone is and being able to see people's individual passions for their own topics was really cool. Obviously to embrace an entire year of one field of study, you have to be

interested in it, but hearing people get excited and watching them light up about their chosen field reminded me what a unique program ISM is.

As a whole, I thoroughly enjoyed the ISM Business Symposium this year. I got so much out of it in so many different capacities. I got to speak to ISM students around the district and reconnect with why ISM is so important to me. Everyone gets something different out of the program and remembering that was very grounding for me. From here I want to try to stay connected to other people in ISM and watch how they change and grow from their work over the year, in addition to staying committed to my own field. ISM is an independent study, but we're really all a family, from my class, to the FHS students, to all the students in the district, and we ultimately have so much more to learn from each other than we may think.