

Research Assessment #8

Date: January 18, 2019

Subject: 2019 Research Showcase Analysis

Assessment:

My last Research Showcase has come and gone and it was an incredible experience. I feel like I've learned so much just from being at the event and can't wait to continue this final semester of ISM and of high school. Setting up for the Research Showcase the second time around was a lot less stressful and I felt really comfortable with the whole setting. I think that's another reason I'm a big advocate for taking the class for two years is that even though you absolutely can get a lot out of it in only one, the simplicity of knowing how these ISM events go and how to prepare for them had made me a lot more cool and collected during them.

Having my mentors at the Research Showcase was another aspect of this year that was different, as Anna was unfortunately unable to attend last year. I really enjoyed having them there and one thing that was reiterated to me during the event was the absolute importance of networking. All night, people came up to Will and Shona who they knew from a variety of different places: work, community, being on City Council, etc., and it emphasized to me that in politics, who you know can define your career in a lot of ways. When you have made a lot of connections and know people across a range of fields, your name has already become more legitimized. I'm going to take this information into the future in that whatever I decide to pursue, I want to really prioritize going out and reaching for opportunities. It's so important to learn from others and ISM has shown to me that people very often want to help you, so instead of seeing it as some kind of imposition, I need to assert myself enough to go out and try.

Finally, and this is something that I really picked up on last year, too, is how absolutely cool ISM truly is. Being in the same room on the same floor as every ISM student in the district and not just knowing, but feeling, the extent of knowledge and hard work that had gone into where we were that evening particularly impressed upon me the vastness of the program. I want to remember in my final few months of ISM to put a real effort into listening to all the speeches I can and supporting my ISM

family as much as possible because it's such a wonderfully unique environment that I know won't end with the end of my senior year.

In conclusion, I can't believe that of the four "big" things in ISM (Original Work, Research Showcase, Final Product, and Final Presentation Night), I'm already done with half of them. Moving forward I want to put my whole effort into everything I do, especially with my mentors, because I'll never be in this exact situation where I can learn so much from them again, and I need to make the most of it. While I'm worried about Final Product and where exactly it's going to go, I've never felt more confident of myself in the program and can't wait to continue my research and observational learning across a variety of subjects within local government.