

Mentor Visit Assessment #1

This past summer I was offered the amazing opportunity to work with my mentor, Ellie Huff, at Baylor Heart & Vascular Hospital in Dallas. Not only has this opportunity allowed me to meet people and have conversations that I never thought I would have at this age, it has also expanded my life goals and professional aspirations beyond any realm that I would think possible, least of all comfortable. Over the course of the past three months, I was able to sit in on governance board meetings, be a part of major Baylor Scott & White projects, acclimate myself to the corporate environment, and build connections that have radically expanded my professional network.

One major experience that my mentor played a hand in was bringing me on a tour of a new tower at The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano (THHBP). THHBP is the best heart hospital in Texas and the 16th best heart hospital in the nation. Additionally, the tour was lead by none other than Mark Valentine, the President of the hospital. The 2 hour long tour was filled with stories of successes and failures, new information about healthcare development including technological developments geared toward modernizing healthcare, and some (very much needed) tips and tricks about surviving the world of healthcare.

At the conclusion of this tour, Mark was so kind as to offer me his business card and told me to call him or email him if I ever needed anything. As I accepted his card, the ISM student in me was screaming in joy and planning for the LinkedIn request I would send. Almost immediately after I got home, I followed up with an email thanking him for his time and asking if he would be willing to put aside 30 minutes of his time for an informational interview. Since I wasn't able to get much one on one time with him, I wanted to take the chance to meet with someone individually and get their expert opinion on their position in healthcare and any guidance they could offer to an aspiring healthcare professional. Thankfully, Mark accepted my offer and about 2 weeks later, I was sitting in his office again- this time in a suit and alone.

Those 30 minutes with Mark Valentine have possibly changed the course of my life. Not only was I able to get priceless guidance from a very successful person, I was given yet ANOTHER opportunity to further my career and differentiate myself as a young adult. Mark told me about an internship program at his hospital that helps young, aspiring healthcare professionals to learn about the inner workings of the hospital and dive headfirst into numerous different fields. Thankfully, the interview skills I acquired during ISM helped me in my meeting with Mark so that by the time our time together was up I had been offered a spot in the program.

Another great aspect of my summer is the fact that I was able to work closely with my mentor and get a true hands on experience in the field of healthcare administration. I have been so blessed with a mentor as great as Ellie because she is a true advocate for the furthering of my education about many different fields in healthcare- not just administration. In addition to meeting some of the best professionals in the field of corporate healthcare, I was able to meet with surgeons and observe cardiologists in the operating room (OR). Being able to actually

stand in the OR, 2 feet from a patient, was a truly amazing experience and allowed me to get a true close up look in the goings on of some cardiac procesites. Seeing how every single person had a job to do that fit into the one big job of bettering the life of the patient was extremely inspirational and reminded me why I was interested in surgery in the first place.

All in all, I would not be where I am today without my mentor, Coach Goff, or sophomore me taking the chance and applying to such an amazing course. I am eternally grateful for the people that have guided me throughout this past year and for how much I have been able to grow as a person, as a student, and as an aspiring healthcare professional.