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Independent Study and Mentorship

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ISM Symposium Reflection

The recent ISM networking event or the ISM Symposium was an excellent opportunity to start branching out professionally. I also believed that I did better than I thought. Since I came before the event began, I was able to get to know more students in the ISM program; this included students who were both at Frisco High School and other schools.

Once they even started, we, the ISM students, were split into eight groups, each starting at a different event section. However, before we went off with our groups, there was an overall ISM networking time at the very beginning, which caused me to meet some professionals in different fields, such as IT analysis, HR management, and the interworkings of Sales. Although I couldn't find a professional in my area of study, I introduced myself professionally and briefly through my practice in ISM on elevator pitches. Through these Elevator pitches, not only did I introduce myself and my topic of interest, but I could also engage in exciting discussions in the field smoothly.

Once the networking session was over, my pink group started with ISM 2 students talking to us about what Original Work was. The Original work is an essential part of the ISM program, which occurs at the end of the semester. It is a way a student demonstrates what they have learned so far in their own ISM experience. This can be shown in different ways, and

through this segment, I was provided with varying examples of previous ISM 1 students' original work, which caused me to start thinking about what I would do as my original work.

The next session we transitioned to was the ISM Alumni speaking to us about the benefits of ISM in the workforce and a Q&A part at the end, which caused me to take note of the program's advantages. After that section ended, we went off to our two interview sections, which took place back to back. From that, I was interviewed by two fascinating professionals; one was involved in the Business side of the Mental Health field, which caused an exciting conversation to occur. However, we ran out of time before I could get through most of my questions for her. Through the resume critiques and interview sessions in ISM from the week before to the Tuesday before the event, I could provide a clean, professional resume and fifteen interview questions that came in handy during this portion specifically. Through the knowledge I learned for the previous Research Assessment, I was able to present a vast knowledge of the field, which caused me to have an efficient, knowledgeable discussion with one of the professionals who was interviewing me, which caused me to leave the interview session with my first contact of the day.

When the interview sessions ended, my group moved on to the ISM 2 Social Media presentation, which discussed what advantages our webpage and LinkedIn would have on us even after ISM. Although this was informational, it wasn't needed.

From there, my group made our way to the professional panel, where I learned about the effects of AI throughout different professional fields, including international business, finance, and IT. Although this session was short, I gained more knowledge about AI than I did before, which may cause me to have my next Research Assessment focused on AI in cybersecurity.

By the end of this session, we transitioned to the student networking portion, which allowed us students from different schools to connect more than before the event started and about our Symposium experience so far. Once this ended, we headed to the final symposium event, which was the ISM2 Connections session. There, we were informed about how to interact with the contacts we have from professionals, go further with those contacts, deal with cold calls, and more. This was very useful because I didn't understand what I could do with the contact information I had just gained throughout the event and how to deal with cold calls.

Although this ISM symposium was fun, it was also very beneficial because it allowed me to interact with many professionals in a day, which wouldn't be done in most events that I went to in the past. However, the ISM 2: social media session wasn't as helpful as assumed. If there were more time for either the interview sessions or the professional panel, it would be more useful. Overall, I believe that I am ready to start reaching out and contacting professionals, which would lead to getting some potential interviews and, hopefully, later on, getting a mentor in my field of prostitution.