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Professional Development CIT

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20Fathoms

20Fathoms is a startup incubator that brings companies and employees together, while also supplying them with funding, learning, and expertise. They have a huge amount of events that they are constantly working on, and they foster education for those that work within the space. Speaking of space, there is a versatile coworking space with private offices as well! 20Fathoms even supplies those who use the space with a “head hunter” who will assist in connecting employees and companies to mutual benefit. I had a great time meeting with others within the IT community and was excited to make some more connections.

Gretchen, the Director of Workforce Development, was very informative about what the company of 20Fathoms does, and her enthusiasm was infectious. I was very nervous to come and see what 20Fathoms was all about honestly. As someone who is so new to this field and is struggling to learn sometimes its intimidating just to listen to those around you who know so much. Gretchen was able to ease my anxiety by being welcoming, caring and informative. I particularly enjoyed the idea of going to more of their upcoming activities and may even try my luck sometime with bringing an idea in front of them at a future startup week.

Keri, the Director of Marketing, touched on many of the upcoming projects that are being launched, or co-launched, in the near future. From what she was describing 20Fathoms is focused on building a community that is built around people and ideas. I particularly enjoyed her description of her job as she did not come from a technology background but had to teach herself some tech to stay relevant with the time.

Maria, the Engagement Manager, discussed how she works with the community that works and learns together within 20Fathoms. Maria is the point of contact with those that are hoping to join 20Fathoms and works with those that are there daily to ensure that they are taken care of and feel the sense of community that they want to convey.

Justin, a Lead Developer at Brightly, was a lot of fun to listen to! Justin described the talents that he brings to Brightly and how he fits in at the 20Fathoms community. He gave some good advice about finding the thing in IT that brings you the most joy and chasing that as your career, I found this to be something really nice to hear. Justin works mostly with React he explained, which I have heard a lot about from others in the Development field. It is something I plan to explore in the future.

All in all I had an exceptional time just getting out and chatting with people that I interact with on such a regular basis but never see in real life! I realized that I had never met you, Lisa, in real life nor David Hosler! It was nice to have the time to chat with everyone and feel the way that 20Fathoms wanted us to feel, like part of a community! I think I will discuss with Maria what the best course of action might be for someone like me joining in the future.