

Observation Assessment #5

Name of Professionals: Mr. Joey Putnam, Mrs. Sarah Strackhouse, Ms. Tia Nayar

ISM Student: Karthikeyan Senthil

Date: October 9th, 2022

Subject: ISM Business Reflection

Assessment:

In the days leading up to the ISM Business Symposium, I was unsure how to feel about the event. I was excited to meet ISM students from across the district and learn about the different experiences and passions they had but I didn't know what we would be doing during the majority of our time there. After our tumultuous journey to Rockhill High School where we had to pick up two fellow ISMers from Heritage, I finally arrived at the Business Symposium. When the event was finally kicked off and we made our way upstairs to the library I was at a loss for what to do. There were so many professionals from all walks of life and it just wouldn't be possible to hear all of their stories. I tried my best to hear as many stories as I could such as from Mr. Joey Putnam who discussed his experience in business and finance. I also met with another lady who was telling me about her business in sports marketing where we discussed how she found clients to work with and this was where I was first introduced to the idea of building up my connections. She told me that most of her clients just came from the network of people she knew who would all recommend other people they knew to utilize her services. This came as a big discovery to me as I always taught that businesses had to do tons of marketing to get their name out there and begin having clients to work with but with this new knowledge I realized that I could just focus my time on building strong personal connections with professionals.

After going throughout the day I made sure to go out of my comfort zone and meet ISM students from other schools. This is when I met Karthikeyan Senthil from Centennial who talked about his passion for Computer Science and we discussed what motivated us to pursue Computer Science while also talking about what the future holds for the industry. After connecting with many of my peers it was time for the interview.

My interviewer was a young man who works at Infosys and is involved in their telecommunications development which was a field closely aligned with mine. In our discussion, we focused on how to utilize my time in college to its full potential along with brainstorming what I should create for my ISM original work. After working through a variety of ideas we came upon the thought of putting my expertise in VR technology with my passion for game development and business by creating a VR video game. Talking with him about my worries for the future and his support in my hobbies and interests made me feel like I was on the right track not only in ISM but for the rest of my life.

Once the interview had concluded I had the pleasure of meeting with the Panel of Professionals who were all involved in some sort of business which made the discussion extremely interesting for me. It was so cool to hear about how they had worked up from the bottom to build their own businesses and how we could replicate their success. Ms. Tia Nayar's and Mrs. Sarah Strackhouse's stories were particularly interesting to me as both of them were business owners and had much experience on how to start a company from the ground up. Overall, the ISM Business Symposium was a very exciting experience for me as I felt affirmed in my direction while also learning much wisdom from the professionals.