

Event Report: USF Career Fair

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Introduction

The event of my choosing for this report is the USF AI, Cybersecurity & Computing Career Fair. I decided to attend this event because I wanted to put myself out there to network with companies and peers who are in the field that I am interested in. The career fair showcased more than a dozen companies that have offices across the country. This report will focus on my reflection and how this event relates to my career and aspirations.

Reflection

I was initially feeling nervous for this career fair because I did not know what to expect. I have been to career fairs before but the pressure was different because I was still younger. Being at this career fair as someone who is graduating soon felt like this event could be a make it or break it for my post-graduation plans. After preparing my resume and light research about the companies I wanted to speak to, I felt better and felt more comfortable.

When I first arrived at the fair, I wanted to do warm-ups by talking to companies that I did not have in my list. At the first table I visited, I was immediately able to connect with the recruiter professionally and personally. Through the remainder of the event, I had to remind myself that these people are here because they want to hire us and get to know us. This event is not supposed to be intimidating but rather something that is insightful. The feeling of insight increased even more as I spoke to recruiters and shared my resume. They all provided great advice and resources about their company that could help someone like me who is graduating soon. My confidence also boosted as I received many compliments about my resume that I initially felt slightly insecure about before I attended this event.

My impressions with this event is that the ballroom that the event took place in was too small. I think that the Center for Career & Professional USF did not anticipate that there would

be this many participants at the event. There were so many lines that you could not even tell which lines were for which company. You would have to speak with the people in line to confirm that you were lining up for the right company. The wait times for the lines were also very long, especially for bigger companies. I think that I waited at least 45 minutes in the Honeywell line and my conversation with the recruiter was very short since they had to make sure they gave everyone the chance to speak with them. By the end of the event, I was exhausted but I also felt thrilled to have learned so much about the industry and what it can potentially offer me.

My career and aspirations truly lie within the technology field. I would love to be a software engineer, IT support, or UI/UX designer since all my past experiences and interests are based on those jobs. During this event, I wanted to promote myself as such to the companies that I spoke with. I spoke to several companies such as ReliaQuest, FIS, Honeywell, Deloitte, JP Morgan & Chase, DTCC, and many more. I asked them about the positions that are available in their companies specifically for someone who is graduating this December and they gave me an abundance of information. During this event, I wanted to make sure that I was doing my best to network. After the event I was able to get multiple LinkedIn connections with my peers and recruiters. I was able to get possible referrals for when I apply to jobs for my post-grad plans. I even recently heard back from one of the companies that I spoke to and I am currently in their hiring process.

This event also helped me learn more about options that are catered for new graduates. I learned about several early career programs that were suggested to me by the recruiters. I was even recommended for other jobs that I might be eligible for within those companies. This event also helped answer questions about job applications and some recruiters even gave me advice on

adjusting my resume. Overall, this event helped me take meaningful steps towards my career goals by giving me exposure to real opportunities and professional advice.

Conclusion

In conclusion, attending the USF, AI Cybersecurity & Computing Career Fair was an experience that is really valuable and meaningful to me. I was able to push myself out of my comfort zone and brought me closer to my overall career goals. I had the chance to connect with professionals in the field while gaining real-time feedback and possible opportunities that align with my interests and aspirations. Though the event had its challenges, the benefits I gained made it worth attending. I now feel more confident as graduation approaches and continue my journey post-graduation.