## Informational Interviews:

Was able to speak to 3 people in industry:

* Eric Kim,
* Bryan Tran,
* Sabina Hemmi.

Eric Kim was someone I had connected to a while ago after seeing that they were a Springboard alumnus, and at the time he was at a games adjacent startup working on analytics and as a data scientist, and I very much had an interest in working for that company. After I reached out to him again more recently to arrange an informational interview, he told me that his LinkedIn was slightly out of date and he was no longer at the company and working somewhere else. Therefore, he was able to share two perspectives of work, one at a startup where he was very autonomous, and one in the healthcare field, where they wanted to get into data science there but still had established corporate structure. He gave me the pros and cons of each company and ended up stating more cons about the original company that I was so interested in. I’m not entirely sure if the things that he brought up about the company were a significant reason he was no longer working with them, but he praised the new company greatly. As a result of the things he brought up, I no longer thought about the company as highly as I once did. That company didn’t really have any fitting job openings regardless, but I will definitely be having second thoughts about the company if they do. I was very intrigued that he seemed to spearhead all data science at both places of employment despite having little experience as a data scientist by job title, so it gave me a small boost in confidence to know that it is possible to get a position as a data scientist. He pointed out to me that despite them being in two different spaces, both allowed him flexibility to do what he wanted in terms of the data science itself, as they had no developed team themselves, and that freedom worked better in a corporate environment where the goals were set and not developed on the fly like at the startup.

Bryan Tran was an acquaintance of mine prior to my decision to get into data science, but as I was going through the curriculum I noticed a lot of what we were doing was similar to what he did as a BI analyst. He noted that the company valued his ability to bridge the communication gap between the business and IT departments in the company, and I could see myself fulfilling that role in other companies. He attests that this is why the company has kept him despite many rounds of cuts in staff at the company, because he brings something to the table that no one else can do. He spoke very well about the company, despite that some teams were slim. The company seems to be trying to grow again, and based on what he shared, I believe that this company is definitely one I will be taking a look at, and seeing if there are any good fits of jobs for me.

Sabina was originally who I thought would be the best person to get to know well as she worked basically from the ground up building a company who’s focus is entirely on data visualizations for gaming. What I learned during the chat was that she was self-taught as well. She did not have any formal education in data or in business yet she is successfully able to run her startup. She gave me tips on what to look for in companies, especially in games and tech as a woman. She also made herself available in almost a mentor like capacity allowing me to ask her questions about offers, negotiations, and what to expect from other companies in the space. For the most of our interview, we ended up talking about tech startups but I found all advice that she gave me to be extremely enlightening. Although she did not have any currently relevant opening at her start up, her company would be an amazing place for me to work in the future when they decide to expand.