

During today's seminar we listened to Dana Deats, Grant Norwood, Sarah Bortnem, and Mark Marwil. There was no official title for the talk but I would title it panel discussion with technologists at HEB. Dana Deats is a recruiter at HEB. Grant Norwood is a senior software engineer at HEB. Sarah Bortnem is a software engineer on the site reliability team and Mark Marwil is a staff software engineer. A common trait amongst all the speakers was that they worked at HEB because of the sense of nostalgia HEB gave to them. They all loved spending time with their families shopping at HEB as children. Grant Norwood mentioned that HEB was very involved in non profit organizations and aiding students through professional workshops and trainings. He mentioned how important User Research is through talking about the different projects he was involved in. He would say that soft skills are very important in the hiring process at HEB. HEB is looking for individuals with creativity and growth mindsets rather than who has the most technical skills. Sarah Bortnem recommended reading Google's Site Reliability Engineering (SRE) Book (Google developed the concept of SRE) for those who are interested in jobs in SRE. She also encouraged students to regularly update their github and developing a coping mechanism to deal with imposter syndrome. Mark Marwil recommended taking a databases class for students that wanted work on his data team. I love the fact that HEB uses so many different technologies on their day to day. Partners at HEB have the opportunity to work on front end development one day and then back end development the next as Sarah Bortnem mentioned. I had one question during the presentation and I loved the answers I received. I asked " what are some user trends you've seen that you did not expect? " and my favorite answer was how users use the lists feature on the HEB app to find aisles in the store as I do that as well!