

Research Showcase Assessment

Date/Time: January 17, 2018 from 6:30-8:30pm

Location: The Star

Assessment:

In the Independent Study and Mentorship program, there are two major projects. One being the Original Work and the other being the Final Product. For the Original Work, there is a showcase held at The Star each year with all the ISM student's boards on display and for everyone to see their accomplishments.

This year, I aimed to be different. My goal was to attract more attention to my board and truly base it around my Original Work. Since it was dealing with my future which could include taking a piece of land and putting a building on it, I decided to cut my board to where the top of it shows a skyline. This added a unique aspect to my board compared to the rest of the ISM students and shows entrepreneurship as I was thinking outside of the box for ways to draw people in.

Throughout the showcase, I was able to see other student's topics such as neurosurgery and real estate. By seeing all the student's differing interests, I got a glimpse into the different industries and professions in the world. It was very informational as I was able to look off of other's boards and learn more about their topic and what they had done. The showcase truly served as an inspiration factor for me as it opened my eyes to all the possibilities in the real world. I was able to get a glimpse into the different ways to take each topic of study and how uniqueness can be added in even the most definite topics.

While standing at my board with my mentor waiting for those to approach me, I was able to brainstorm ways I could grab individual's attention and make it interesting for them. My mentor had given me tips and suggestions on what to improve when I am speaking with people for the first time and explaining my topic/what I have done. This has really helped as I have learned what type of things keep people interested. They typically do not care about all the miniscule details and want to get straight to the point. Therefore, I shortened my opening pitch and went straight into what I had done and why I had done it. This was a great chance for me to improve my speaking skills and even expand my network with others who showed interest in me.

Preparation for the Research Showcase occurred over the course of an entire semester. It has been all the work I have done this year into one event. Friends, family, and professionals who came to visit were also able to flip through my Research Portfolio which has printed copies of all the assessments, interviews, and other research I have conducted. This was a great way for me to really get myself out there and show those encouraging me to continue forward that I have been working my hardest. By seeing what other people have done, I am motivated to continue moving forward because I see those individuals as my greatest assets and competition. It is always good to stay ahead of the curve and I plan to continue learning as much as I can before I

head off to college. The future awaits me and the work I am putting in today will only propel me in the right direction.