

Running Head: LUNCH WITH A LEADER

Professional Development Center/ Lunch With A Leader

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On Monday, November 18th, 2019 Mendez attended a Professional Development Workshop from 11:30 pm to 1:30 pm. Mendez had the privilege to sit down in a professional environment and have lunch with a leader. In this workshop, students have the ability to dress to impress and be ready to meet entrepreneurs. The speaker for this event was an entrepreneur named Fernando Ramirez. Everybody has the chance to have a delicious three-course meal while listening to Ramirez's story. Ramirez is an entertainment attorney who provides transaction legal services for clients in the music, film, television, and book publishing industries. Ramirez got the chance to work as an entertainment attorney for 18 years. Just alone in the film and television industry, Ramirez served as a legal counsel on over 85 films. Ramirez stated that being in this industry and having a career as an Entertainment Attorney can be a lot of fun but very stressful at the same. Ramirez pointed out the pros and the cons of his career, and what could have been different if he had a mentor throughout his college career.

This workshop was offered through the Professional Development Center at The City University of New York, CUNY, New York City College of Technology to prepare students for future careers and to get first-hand advice from professionals who have worked in their field for years. Attending this workshop is important for students to learn what to expect from the positive to the negatives. Ramirez comes from being an undergrad at Fordham University and obtaining a Law degree from Brooklyn Law. Ramirez stated how throughout his undergrad and grad years he found it very difficult to balance out his life because he was not being led by a mentor. Ramirez pointed out how he had to make a lot of sacrifices in his career to get where he is now. His advice to students was having a mentor can really work in your favor.

Ramirez explains by having a mentor lead you throughout your college career is essential because it gives you the opportunity to learn from somebody who has experience and is able to advise you when you do not know what to do in certain circumstances. He assures that if he was privileged enough to go to an Ivy League university such as Harvard, he would have got the mentorship. He gave a quick story where he was fortunate enough to meet somebody big in the music industry in one of his son's field trip who wanted to seek help from him.

Unfortunately, Ramirez was not the right attorney for his issue so he directed him to somebody he thought could help him. It turned out that Ramirez directed him to the wrong person because he was not well knowledgeable in that time about particular things. Ramirez believed that if he had a mentor to lean on or ask advice to the turnout would have been different. There was also something very important that Ramirez states throughout the workshop. Ramirez said that students who go to CUNY universities are underprivileged and take full advantage of their education as opposed to students who go to ivy leagues, students who go to ivy leagues have more resources and are given more opportunities.

Mendez believes the objectives that a professional development workshop gives to students are important in any university because one can learn what to expect when they enter their field. One objective that a professional workshop gives is making students feel like they have resources and making them feel like they have the opportunity to sit down somewhere that is elegant and meet important people that you can brand out to in the future. This Professional Development workshop relates to Mendez's professional career because being a participant in this workshop allowed her to understand how there are going to be numerous times in her future career where she has to attend professional work meetings which include fancy dinners with

highly educated people in different positions. This workshop was a perfect way for her to not only connect with people but learn more about how professional events work.

As a participant, I enhanced how having a mentor throughout my college career is important to have and maybe also after college. Having mentors in your life is a way to guide you and there is nothing wrong with asking for some extra help or asking somebody who knows what they are doing. Taking advantage of all resources, even if it is the small ones, it can create a huge impact. The value of taking this workshop is to understand that even tho CUNY students do not have the same resources as ivy league universities, it does not mean CUNY students do not have strong educational resources such as the Professional Development Workshops. We are blinded half the time as students because we are unaware of all the resources we can use for our everyday lives or for our future. I am grateful to have the opportunity to brand out my opportunities as a CUNY student and be fortunate enough to attend workshops like this one.