

Emmanuel Koko
BUF 4900
Professor Adomaitis
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Professional Development Critique #1

1. What, where, when and how was this professional development seminar about? 5-6 sentences

Answer :

The professional development center at CUNY New York City College of Technology hosted a Linked Panel Discussion on April 20th 2023. This event was located in the college's Academic Complex in room A-209. From 12:30pm-2:00pm panelist Alisha Corke, Isory Santana, Joshua Gonzalez, and Agustin Melo Galvez provided attendees with advice and information on how to utilize the LinkedIn platform to acquire jobs. Being question and answer based, the attendees were able to interact with the panelist and ask questions in regards to using LinkedIn as a tool to expose themselves to the workforce. The panelist selection consisted of former and current City Tech students who all have a background in computer science and IT. Despite their work background, everything they addressed synced well with the attendees and was applicable to all work backgrounds. This seminar was highly informative and provided clarity on the actual advantages of having a LinkedIn profile.

2. What did you learn by attending this seminar in detail? 5-6 sentences

Answer :

Attending this seminar was a great learning experience. Networking seemed to be the theme of the discussion but it also branched out into other important conversations. Panelist Joshua Gonzalez who is head of IT at City Tech educated the attendees on how to use a LinkedIn community to help solve issues you may have at work. He gave an example about a time where he had an issue with a certain smartboard monitor and he was able to resolve the issue by addressing his problem to a LinkedIn community that had to do with his niche. Learning about the significance of LinkedIn networks and communities provided insight on some issues I would come across at the workplace. Panelist Agustin Galvez who majors in Communication Design at City Tech spoke about how networking in general got him an internship right at the school. Galvez urged the attendees to not be discouraged or afraid if you are not able to acquire a certain job because networks will always be there to provide more opportunities. Alisha Corke who is a UX designer and currently attending City Tech explained that she would send direct messages on

LinkedIn to people within her field that hold senior roles. The purpose of this is not only to curate a relationship but learn about how they acquired the position they currently hold. Learning about cultivating professional relationships on LinkedIn is significant as the workforce is ever changing and learning never ceases.

3. How did this professional development seminar enhance your career moving forward? (5-6 sentences)

Answer :

This professional development helped me work on social skills and not leave anything to chance. The panelist made it known that although LinkedIn is a powerful tool to advance careers, they also recommended using the Handshake app and Indeed. These platforms heavily immerse themselves with socializing at a professional standpoint. Working on social skills landed me with a job agency that scouts people who want to pursue wholesale and buying careers in the fashion industry. In regards to leaving anything to chance, the panelist advised that if a job posting is posted on multiple platforms, apply to those as well. The attendees at this seminar were also advised to follow up with the person posting the job opportunity to increase the likelihood of standing out and getting the role. By including this practice into my job searches, I increase the likelihood of hearing back from jobs and potentially move forward with interviews.

4. What would you tell other students about this seminar and why should they attend? (5-6 Sentences)

Answer :

Students or anyone in general should not be overwhelmed when it comes to using LinkedIn or any job platform in general. There was a time where someone with a robust LinkedIn profile now did not have much prior. The main takeaway from this seminar and one that should be told to other students is that the community will always be there but it is up to the person to involve themselves in it. Despite communities being able to help others, the person must make themselves available to learn and dedicate time into refining their education and skills in whatever career they are pursuing. Students should attend this seminar so that they can see real life examples of how networking and using job platforms like LinkedIn exposes someone to so many job opportunities.

