

Tanner Jules Gordon-Smith
Pave Your Way–Career Planning 101
Professional Development Critique #1

This professional development seminar was from the New York City College of Technology's professional development department. It took place on Tuesday, March 7th, 2023 from 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm on Zoom. This seminar was called "*Pave Your Way–Career Planning 101*" and it helped explain and describe the best way an individual can create a personalized career plan. The speakers described ways to explore one's interests and turn them into a job that you love. Preparing for your future career can be extremely challenging and throughout the seminar, many different tips and feedback were given to help assess one's skills, values, and goals. These are to help you take charge in your career field, achieve the desired outcome, and make informed decisions.

After attending this seminar I learned how to job search, network, and be more self-aware. Job searching has become very hard, especially if one wants a high position with a company/brand they feel connected to. This seminar showed me how to write effective cover letters, resumes, and job applications that would help me stand out from others. For example, using keywords that companies are looking for helps you look like the best fit or ideal match for the job. Another important part of this seminar was how to effectively network with individuals to help advertise yourself in a sense. If you are able to network yourself online and in person successfully then you will greatly see an increase in not just opportunities but professional relationships as well. Lastly, the seminar taught me the importance of self-awareness and why one should keep track of who they are. When one is able to properly assess their strengths, weaknesses, interests, goals, values, etc, then one can make much more informed decisions and find careers that align with who you are.

Moving forward, this seminar has enhanced my career by giving me an improved skillset and a clear direction. I can approach my job search and career development with more confidence and a clearer sense of purpose if I have a better grasp of my talents, interests, and values as well as improved networking and job search abilities. With a better understanding of my strengths, interests, and values, I can make more informed decisions about career paths and pursue opportunities that I previously would not have done. In the future, I will be much more prepared to face the rising competition to find a job and be able to refine my search to one that best suits my talents. These resources allow me to take control of my career and achieve my professional goals.

If other students wanted to attend this seminar I would definitely tell them to do so because it would help them discover new career opportunities. There are so many different careers out there and this seminar will help you learn how to find them. By doing things like networking and building a road map for their career they will discover career paths, job roles, and industries that they may not have considered before. Attending a career planning seminar can be a valuable investment in one's career development. Students can position themselves for

success and reach their professional goals by becoming more aware of their interests and ambitions while learning about new job prospects.