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Dr. Adomaitis

BUF 4900 Internship

Professional Development Critique #2

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS FOR CRITIQUES

1. What was the purpose of this professional development seminar? What is the title? Who was offering the workshop and why? What made this person an expert?

The purpose of this professional development seminar was to have a panel discussion on career paths that are in the beauty industry. Two departments, Business and Chemistry, brought three professionals with backgrounds in chemistry and business to discuss their achievements in their careers and challenges they have faced. The title of this seminar was “What Can I Do with This Major?”. The three professionals invited by the Professional Development Center, along with Dr. Sutton, were Sabina Wagner, Nasim Farahmand, and AJ Addae. Wagner is a senior scientist for international flavors & fragrances, Farahmand is a senior scientist at L’Oréal for research & innovation, and Addae is the founder of SULA LABS.

2. What did one learn at this workshop? Be detailed and descriptive.

In this workshop, one learned what each panelist thought helped them start off their careers, what to take advantage of, and advice to succeed in one’s major. Nasim Farahmand

found that her supervisor & chemists had helped her a lot, and that CUNY is supportive (Farahmand, 2024). When asked “Why is mentorship important & how does one remain curious about the world of perfumery?”, Sabrina Wagner stated that fresh perspective is important and there is a concept of “I learn from you, and you learn from me”. Regarding mentorship, she stated that what the mentee can do for one, one can also do for the mentee, and that she would recommend keeping a journal if one would be going into a mentorship program (Wagner, 2024). When describing how their work environment is, Nasim Farahmand stated that “there are no same two days at L’Oréal and that one is never bored” (Farahmand, 2024). She also stated that most days require thinking outside the box. What was interesting was that one learned that even though she works in the beauty industry, Farahmand needed to conduct research on textiles for the use of different fibers.

3. Would you (one) recommend this PD workshop to your peers at New York City College of Technology, CUNY? Why or Why not?

One would recommend this workshop to peers at New York City College of Technology, CUNY. Whether these peers are perusing a degree in chemistry, beauty or even fashion, the workshop was very informative. One was given the opportunity to learn from experiences of others that are on different but similar career paths. At the end of the panel discussion, the panelist was given the chance to give advice to listeners. Some of this advice was to give oneself time to absorb everything one is learning, to not be hard on oneself, and to surround oneself with good people who motivates oneself to go higher. A workshop like this could be helpful to those peers who might be struggling to find an answer on what it is that they would truly like to pursue

with the major that they have been dedicating themselves to for so long. One might feel the pressure to know the answer but truly do not know what is right for them. Choosing panelists that have attended courses at CUNY, and that are not senior scientists or founders of companies also can bring one encouragement that they too can reach for higher roles within their major.

4. Did you (one) feel prepared through coursework and classes to be at this PD workshop?

Why or Why not. Explain in detail.

One felt prepared through coursework and classes to attend this professional development workshop. Upon taking a course with Dr. Sutton herself, one learned a lot about the beauty industry. Throughout the course, one conducted research on beauty trends and the importance of the ingredients that were put into beauty products. This provided a brief introduction to what the beauty industry looks like and how much chemistry is involved in it. From other courses, polls were usually given during online sessions to participate. Assuming because the workshop only ran for an hour and fifteen minutes, polls were also given to those watching online to participate in the conversation to keep track of time during the panel discussion.

References

Addae, A. (March 14, 2024). *What Can I Do with This Major?* [Lecture notes].

Farahmand, N. (March 14, 2024). *What Can I Do with This Major?* [Lecture notes].

Wagner, S. (March 14, 2024). *What Can I Do with This Major?* [Lecture notes].