

Career Development Center: Preparing Us for Life

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Logan Gee

With two semesters packed full of new student opportunities completed, the Career Development Center ends yet another year of great programming. This year, the CDC introduced new events for students who were seeking to develop their understanding of the professional world, such as introducing new networking events and expanding the job-related fairs for students. Out of all these events, though, I have to say that my favorite was the new Mock Interview Week.

Mock Interview Week is just as it sounds—a week full of practice interviews between students and employers from our Employer Advisory Board. Students were recommended to schedule with employers who fit their field of study and were then evaluated on skills such as eye contact, mannerisms, language, and even dress. Originally, I didn't plan on participating, but after some thought and finding out that I was chosen for an interview for the Alfred University Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award, I signed up for not one, but two interviews, and I am so glad that I did.

My first practice interview was a bit rough because I didn't know how to market the “Logan” brand nor how to talk about my professional experiences in an attention-grabbing way. But throughout the entire 30-minute one-on-one session, I received nothing but honest and positive feedback that improved my confidence and readied me for my second practice interview, which went much better than the first and enhanced my interview skills even more.

When the time came for the award interview, I was still a bit nervous, but I had a better understanding of how to present myself professionally and in a confident manner. A day later, I found out that I was chosen as one of two Marlin Miller Outstanding Seniors out of the entire graduating class. And though I do recognize that a huge part of my receiving this award is because of my commitment and involvement with campus, I do believe that these practice

interviews gave me an edge in the competition.

Without the Career Development Center, I'd still be a student at Alfred University, but I really don't believe that I would be as prepared as I am for life after Alfred. The job fairs, the networking events, and the plethora of other opportunities this office is constantly putting together for students are so invaluable to this campus. I believe this office is part of the reason that we have great alums doing great things.