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Domestic Leadership Experience

Reflection

During ethics class each week, we talked about a variety of ethical dilemmas and discussed many different ethical decision making strategies. We all have our own personal sets of values that guide us and shape us into future business leaders. In the end, I think the most important takeaway is that decisions, and whether or not these decisions are ethical, create the foundations for companies and business professionals throughout the nation and around the world. As we traveled to two of our nation's business centers, this proved to be true. Ethical insights could be gathered from the answers to every question we asked of the professionals we met over the course of the last week in Washington, D.C. and in New York City. During these experiences, I learned how to be a better leader.

On Capitol Hill, we had the chance to hear from representatives from Lewis and Burke Associates. I was introduced to lobbying and what it means to stand with a purpose and advocate for the people whose voices often go unheard. We had the opportunity to speak to members of Senator Rob Portman's and Representative Brad Wenstrup's staff about issues with higher education in Congress. Since neither Portman nor Wenstrup is included on Congress education committees, we were able to ask questions regarding other hot topics in regulation. Senator Portman is fighting against drugs and human trafficking specifically happening in big tech. After all of our company analyses and current events about big tech regulation, it was encouraging to hear about some of the efforts being made to combat these issues.

In New York, our first stop took us to one of Bloomberg's offices. Two Lindner Honors-PLUS alumni hosted. We spent the majority of our day picking their brains and asking questions, both ones we had prepared and ones that came up as we went along. At one point, I asked how I could get the most out of my last three years of school. They encouraged me to enroll in difficult classes, even though my grade point average might take a hit. In school, it is our job to learn and absorb as much knowledge as we can. Throughout the day, we met with a variety of other employees who worked in a variety of positions and touched many functions within the company. Our day concluded with a great discussion about leadership with Bloomberg's Chief Data Officer, Domenic Maida. We asked him how he responds in situations in which he is tasked with a responsibility he does not particularly enjoy. We have all been in the situation before: there is a task that needs to be done, but it is one that no one wants to do at all. As a leader, you have the power to pass the responsibility to someone underneath you. However, Domenic explained that even if that is an option, we should not give work to someone unless we can explain exactly why it is necessary for the other person to complete the task. If they can learn something from the experience, it might be important to hand down the work, but if it really is something everyone hates, it's important to share the work to show respect for your employees and to build relationships on a foundation of trust.

Next, we went to Deloitte and discussed the importance of well-being in the workplace. No matter the circumstances, we must never discount the fact that our colleagues have lives outside of work. Partner and Chief Marketing Officer, Diana O'Brien stressed the importance of open communication with co-workers, and, more importantly, our superiors. If we fail to effectively communicate our interests and concerns, it becomes impossible to grow

professionally. She encouraged us to seek answers we are unable to find for ourselves. If we do not understand a decision, the only way to understand is to ask the right questions. An individual's set of values is a product of her surroundings. We take pieces of other people to build our own core values maps.

At JP Morgan Chase, we spent almost two hours with Lori Beer, the Chief Information Officer. Learning from her, I could imagine for myself all the opportunities available to me as a woman in the business world. Years ago, no one could have imagined an operating board as balanced as JP Morgan's: six women and six men. It was inspiring to hear her journey to the top and her experiences with Jamie Dimon as a colleague and friend. We asked her a lot of questions about work-life balance and how she manages the massive responsibility she has to ensure information security at every hour every day across the globe. She called her work-life balance techniques "work-life integration." With technological advancements, she is never truly separated from her corporate responsibilities, so any break or vacation has to be intentional. We all need to find time to disconnect. Lori explained that if we feel we cannot leave our desk without fear of failure from our team, we are not good leaders. Being a good leader includes trusting your team to perform even when you are away. Lori has a larger team than most of us will ever have: 53,000 technologists report directly or indirectly to her every day, and this number is always growing. Last year, the company hired 11,000 new engineers and information specialists. If the CIO of JP Morgan can take a vacation and disconnect, so should I be able to leave my sorority and other student organizations with the confidence that everything will remain in my absence.

My experiences in Washington, D.C. and New York City gave me a lot to think about. I am interested to see how the insights I gained will impact the decisions I make in the future. I feel so lucky to have been presented with the such eye-opening opportunities in two incredible cities. I look forward to maintaining and growing relationships with the alumni and business professionals I met along the way. I hope that they can help me find and follow the path I want to take when I graduate from UC.