

Weekly EMP Newsletter

NOVEMBER 4, 2022



CLAUDE AND BETTY LOU LAVAL
ENTREPRENEUR
MENTOR
PROGRAM

Reflections on Field Trips, Guest Speakers & CEO

By

John Petrogonas

This week's session kicked off with a delicious Lebanese meal hosted by Mentees Briseyda Dominguez and Kanaan Amoudi. Kanaan, originally from Lebanon, worked at the Golden Grill upon moving to Fresno. Briseyda and Kanaan chose an array of delicious dishes from the Golden Gill, including beef and chicken kabobs, rice, pocket bread, tzatziki, and hummus. It was a delicious start to our November 4th session!



After lunch, the mentees shared their experiences and major takeaways from the Global CEO Conference in Chicago. This was our first meeting as a group since the conference, and it was great to hear the different perspectives. Each mentee took advantage of the conference and their first visit to Chicago.

Not only were the keynote and breakout session speakers inspirational, but having the opportunity to network with like-minded students from Universities throughout the United States was a rare opportunity. It was exciting to be with other students who believed that an entrepreneurial mindset is a key to propelling our futures forward.

A common thread in all of the sessions at the conference was the importance of a growth mindset. Successful entrepreneurs are willing to learn continually. It doesn't matter if you are the team leader, an intrapreneur, or starting a business. You'll never reach a point where you've finished learning! Another common thread was that successful entrepreneurs embrace challenges, mistakes, and failure as opportunities to develop new skill sets to help them succeed in the future.

Attending a conference in Chicago was an eye-opening experience. We were placed outside our comfort zone and had the opportunity to grow in ways that we never envisioned. Exploring Chicago, eating new foods, taking various modes of transportation, meeting new people, sharing ideas, and navigating the unknown gave us a new perspective. It also confirmed the skills that we have learned in EMP. We felt well-prepared to participate with the other students in the sessions we attended. Many connections were made at the conference that the mentees hope to continue to cultivate well into the future,

Although we had an opportunity to network and meet attendees and expert speakers, one major benefit of the conference was getting to know each other better. Our bond as a cohort grew and became stronger. We discovered that travel builds and strengthens community.

Because of our schedule this past month with our guest speaker, field trip to Sun-Maid, and the CEO Conference, we had not had sufficient time to debrief from these sessions. We took significant time discussing each of these unique sessions. We had a lively discussion on what worked and what could have been better.





S. H. A. K. E. P.



We continued our discussion regarding our EMP Professional Characteristics List. We had a lively debate regarding the list and felt that there needed to be more work on defining each characteristic. Based on our group discussion, Colton Cunningham and Marin Winek will meet to rework the list and present it at our next session.

EMP Professional Characteristics List

1. *Strongly Principled*

- a. Consistent in their values
- b. Strict ethical code
- c. Strict moral code

2. *Humble*

- a. Seeing everyone as equal, they don't think they're special
- b. Admits when they make a mistake
- c. Always open to feedback

3. *Active Listener*

- a. Being fully present in the conversation
- b. Not just waiting for their turn to talk
- c. Listen to understand the other person's POV (No judgment)

4. *Knowledgeable and Skilled*

- a. Well-rounded
- b. Skilled with their craft/trade
- c. Knowledgeable in their field

5. *Emotionally Intelligent*

- a. Compassionate
- b. Lives without pretending, Loves without depending, Listens without defending, Speaks without offending.
- c. Demonstrates empathy

6. *Positive Attitude*

- a. Enthusiastic
- b. A positive outlook on life.
- c. Very optimistic for the future while remaining grounded in reality

