

Networks Professional Development Program Newsletter

✦ ✦ ✦ Written by the Program Partners Team



The State of the Networks Report

Special points of interest:

- * Professional Development
- * Team Building
- * Industry Experience
- * Expanding Network

This Fall of 2018, the Networks Professional Development Program welcomed the 2022 Freshmen Class. The large group, totaling 20 students, brought the Networks program up to a total of 81 scholars.

Team Building, Program Partners, Marketing & Promotion, and Community Service. Each team, headed by sophomore leaders, worked on their own separate projects throughout the year.

The Junior Class focused primarily on the creation and preparation for the annual Ethics Conference in the Spring, along with a fall Ethics event.

Finally, the Seniors focused on finding professional positions in the workforce. All seniors also served as a mentor to at least one of the Networks freshmen.

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The Freshmen and Sophomore classes were placed into one of seven different project teams: Special Events, Travel, Industry Relations,

The team leaders, along with a liaison from each class also served on the Networks Student Advisory Council.

CCMSI Industry Visit

On November 28th, 2018, the Networks Scholars were given the opportunity to participate in an Industry visit at CCMSI in Danville, Illinois. The event was coordinated by the Industry Relations Team. CCMSI is the nation's largest independently owned Third Party Administrator. They specialize in claims, underwriting, and loss control. Their location in Danville is the

company's corporate headquarters. Scholars listened to representatives from the departments of claims, accounting, sales, and loss control, speak about their positions at CCMSI and goals for their areas in the future. Zachary Holt, the leader of the Industry Relations Team, said, "the CCMSI industry visit was a success. The

scholars that went had the opportunity to listen to employees in four different departments of the company. Tori and the team at CCMSI did an extraordinary job with hosting us."



The Amazing Race

On October 3rd, 2018, the Networks Scholars gathered for a team-building exercise. The “Amazing Race”, created and organized by the Team Building Project Team, was designed to build morale and communication amongst the scholars, while exposing them to exciting experiences. The scholars were randomly divided into ten teams that worked together to complete challenges at ten

different stations across campus.

Sarah Williams, Team Leader of the Project Team, said, “the entire group worked hard to come up with an event that would be challenging, fun, and collaborative for all of the scholars. It was awesome to see the scholars working together and having fun!”



Ropes Course



During the first week of school, the Networks Freshman Class of 2022 went to the Indiana State University Sycamore Outdoor Center to get to know each other by completing a series of team-building and leadership activities.

The ISU Sycamore Outdoor Center is a multi-use outdoor facility designed to accommodate educational and recreational programs for campus groups and the community at large. One example of an exercise was to get all individuals from

one platform to another one, without touching the ground. Ryan Knezevich said, “I learned the importance of trust and communicating a plan before executing it.” The Ropes Course is a long-standing tradition of the Networks Program.

Worldwide Journey With Networks

On October 25th, 2018, the Networks Scholars heard presentations from their program cohorts who had recently studied abroad or went to the Networks Trip in May. This special seminar was coordinated by the Special Events Team.

The scholars who studied abroad shared their personal experiences in their country,

including the classes they took, additional places they traveled to while abroad, and why other students should take advantage of this experience. These scholars and their countries included: Jacob Kissick and Jak Kramer, Greece; Brooke Hendricks and Josh Bruce, Spain; and Katie Nuthak, London.

In addition, 28 Networks Scholar travelled cross-country to Seattle, Washington on the Networks Trip in

May 2018. These scholars gave presentations about sustainability efforts, the trip industry visits and events, and differences in business customs and etiquette.

Nathan Bromm, a member of the Special Events Team and the emcee of the night stated, “I thought the event was a great success in which we all learned a lot from our excellent speakers!”

Ethics Conference

Every year the current junior class hosts the Networks Professional Development Ethics Conference in the Spring. This year, the juniors selected the tagline of “Building a Better Tomorrow” to illustrate their commitment to ethics.



A variety of panels and speakers representing different fields and majors are lined up. More information on the conference held on March 4th, 2019 will be in the next issue of this newsletter.

As a lead into the spring conference, the junior class hosted a fall speakers panel on November 1st, 2018. “Needles? What’s the Point?”, was a discussion over the use of vaccinations. Professionals



from the medical field, county health department and the legal system served as speakers, and answered questions from students. Over 120 individuals attended this informational evening.

International Dining Event

On November 15th, 2018, the Networks Program held their International Dining Event. Each year, the current freshmen class hosts this educationally delicious networking event. The freshmen are put into four different groups, each representing a different country of their choosing.

The featured countries this year were Bolivia, Egypt, Malaysia,

and Poland. This is the first large project that is created, planned, and executed by the freshmen class. They manage logistics, catering, verbal and visual presentations, communication, and programming. The groups conducted research for their presentations and displays, and personally selected each dish to represent their country.

The event also allowed for the freshmen to strengthen their public speaking skills. This amazing evening was attended by scholars, Scott College of Business faculty and staff, and ISU staff. Students appreciated the support by Dean Brien Smith and all others who were present.



Terre Haute Boys & Girls Club

On Monday, October 29th, 2018, the Networks Professional Development Program joined the Terre Haute Boys & Girls Club to put on an unforgettable Halloween Event. The children at the Boys & Girls Club have become special to the Networks Program, as it has developed into an annual tradition to share a fun event during the Vigo County fall or spring break.

It is now a favorite event amongst the scholars, and they feel it is rewarding to serve and give back within the community. This was the first community service event of the year organized by the Community Service Team and team leader, Makayla Irish.

The afternoon was full with scholars engaging with the kids in a range of fun activities

and games. Some of the games included: pumpkin coloring, pin the bow on the skeleton, and an educational presentation on dental hygiene. The event left the scholars out of breath, but the kids smiling.

“Giving back to the youth is one of the most rewarding and honorable aspects of being a Networks Scholar.” – Kyle Hollinden

Corporate Mentor Luncheon

On Friday, February 1st, the Special Events Team hosted the Networks Program Corporate Mentor Luncheon. The purpose of this event was to recognize the mentors for their dedication and time they have shared to help better the students they served in the Networks Program. Each Junior and Senior is paired with a

professional in their desired field. The keynote speaker was Dr. Blake Rayfield, Assistant Professor of Finance at Indiana State. He shared stories of mentors that had assisted him on his journey, and his goals for future mentorship of students. Corporate mentors have proven to be significant to the future success of the scholars in the program.



Thank You For Reading!

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