Developing Professionalism
*Weekly Report 10/2/17 to 10/5/17*

I have made great progress in my journey as a young professional this week. I attended my first Business Symposium and practiced both conducting and receiving interviews with professionals. This was a great experience because it was my first time communicating extensively professionals without an academic context. Also, this week I set up my digital portfolio and that experience allowed me to organize my new professional life. In summary of this past week, I have made some of my biggest leaps yet regarding progression in the professional world.

However, a major challenge I faced this week creating small talk with professionals. It was difficult to communicate about things other than their profession and my experience in ISM, so this was an excellent learning experience. Similarly, it was very enlightening to learn what colleges actually look for in high school students, and to understand how I can already begin applying for scholarships and other forms of financial aid, but this experience also served as a challenge to me because it was a harsh wakeup call. I finally realized that I must begin diligently searching for scholarships and utilizing all the resources that I once saw as annoyances.

Going into the coming week, I feel very prepared for what I am yet to face in ISM because I have strengthened my sense of professionalism. Another significant step in my journey in ISM was the completion of my "S.M.A.R.T." goals. These goals are setting the standard for what I hope to accomplish in both my academic and personal life. One of the most crucial goals to my development as a person is my goal to increase my academic endurance and the amount of passion that I invest in my everyday activities. I know that this goal is realistic because since the beginning of junior year, I have already began to stress a lot less about a heavy workload. In the upcoming weeks, I plan to make even more progress towards reaching this goal and developing as a young professional.