

Success

Independent Study Mentorship

Weekly Report 11: October 30–November 2, 2017

A popular quote by Byron Dorgan that many professionals live by in the business world is “Working hard and working smart sometimes can be two different things.”. The value of this quote didn’t become relevant to me until this week. My challenge in previous weeks had been that my consistent, yet unmodified, efforts had been ineffective in attaining interviews or much improvement at all. Initially I didn’t see an issue with my efforts as the process had worked when getting my first interview. However, desperate times called for desperate measures.

With the hope that changing my process would give me a better chance at success, I begun contacting professionals in a different manner and reached out to my community to ask for recommendations. This proved to be beneficial to me as I attained an interview with dr. Steven Hull at Phillips Creek Animal Hospital. Additionally, with the help of teacher recommendations I was able to receive the contact information of a very successful veterinarian. Additionally, I learned that portraying the real reason I am in ISM to professionals will make me seem more desirable. With my drive for ISM sourcing from my passion towards helping others and loving animals, it makes it easy to gain the attention of professionals who most likely share the same passion as I. Finding something relatable between myself and the professional can open doorways to more trust and interest then making ISM seem like a school project would.

Aside from the battle of a network I have faced recently, I begun a new battle: presenting. With all of the information I have acquired recently over the myriad of research reports and single interview I’ve had, it’s time I present my findings to my fellow classmates. This is going to be my next biggest challenge in the coming week as I figure out how to synthesize my findings in a logical way that can be easily understood by those who haven’t learned all that I have explored. Ultimately, this presentation will test if I really retained the information I sought out all these weeks.

In hindsight however, it’s refreshing to reach a sliver of success after a streak of failure. Based upon the efforts I presented this week, it is notable to remember to always innovate your process because working hard and working smart can drastically change your results. Looking forward though, I need to consider in a larger view all that I have

learned and how I can share that passion with the people around me despite their limited understanding.