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Pathways Scholars meet with Johnson Controls Inc. (JCI)

On Friday, November 3rd, the Scholars had back-to-back meetings with two of our sponsoring companies. Heidi Summers, HR Manager from Johnson Controls Inc., met with the scholars first. She spoke about JCI being the world leader in smart buildings, their commitment to creating safe, healthy and sustainable spaces as well as the industries they service including health care, campuses, sports & entertainment and airports to name a few. Heidi provided an overview of their supply chain function and their internship program. She also facilitated an interviewing workshop with the scholars which included having them practice interviewing each other.

Special thank you to Heidi and JCI for the informative meeting, workshop and providing lunch for the scholars.
The second meeting on November 3rd was with Mattress Firms’ Lara Ashley, Manager – HR, Ali Todd, Director, Strategic Inventory Planning & Deployment and Michael Edwards, Director, Supply Chain Strategy & Engineering who attended virtually. As explained in their presentation, Mattress Firm was founded in 1986 and its subsequent growth hitting $3 Billion in Sales in 2020. They provided insight into Mattress Firms’ purposeful measurement of customer connective transactions which focuses on the 3Ps: Promise, Performance, and Perception. Their utilization of purposeful measurement has resulted in a robust business analytics function and capabilities. Lara spoke about their commitment to customizing their internship opportunities to each student's interests. Thank you to Lara, Ali and Michael for the time they gave the students and for an insightful presentation.
Encova Representatives hosted the Pathways Scholars on Friday, December 1, at their headquarters located in downtown Columbus. Brad Higgins, a member of the Supply Management and Budget team, and Ralph Smithers, AVP, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Community Relations, spoke with the scholars about Encova’s products and services, supply chain function, career opportunities and Encova’s commitment to community involvement.

Brad Higgins shared advice he has given to his team members with the scholars. He encouraged them to think about what they want their career to look like. “What you do when the spotlight is not on you will determine how you perform when the spotlight is on you. Do the right things, work hard. Determine how you want to be in life and start today with those behaviors.”

Brad led a tour of Encova’s offices including the executive office floor where the scholars had the opportunity to meet Encova’s CFO, Christopher Howat.

Thank you to Ralph and Brad for an informative and inspiring visit.
Meet 2023-24 Pathways Scholars!

Reese Hutchison
Senior
Major – Operations Management

Saiyami Patel
Senior
Major – Operations Management

Elena Boger
Junior
Major – Logistics Management

Kennedy Tucker
Sophomore
Major – Operations Management
Meet Reese!

Reese Hutchison
Senior
Major – Operations Management
Minor - Spanish
Barrington High School
Barrington, IL

Reese said she's known since her early teenage years that she wanted to pursue a degree in business and later discovered a specific interest in supply chain. She sees the world of business as having endless opportunities. As she approaches her final semester in college, she said each day she becomes more excited to step out into the world and begin her career in supply chain. She is excited to be part of the Pathways program during this final year and is enjoying learning from both experienced business leaders and peers who are also passionate about business.

Reese is passionate about being a part of the OSU community. She is one of 12 student board members on the Buck-I-Serve Board. They plan three service trips each year. "I was responsible for communicating with the site representatives, organizing accommodations and also negotiating the finances. These trips provide an opportunity for the students to create change in different areas of the country while strengthening their bond with their fellow OSU students. Additionally, in this role, we create and lead sessions about Diversity and Inclusion to create awareness and understanding about our identities and the identities of those around us to help foster meaningful conversations. I have been lucky enough to watch many people expand their understanding from the incredible number of diverse thinkers we have on our campus."
Meet Saiyami!

Saiyami Patel
Senior
Major – Operations Management
Springfield High School
Springfield, OH

The study of business in Saiyami’s eyes offers ample amounts of opportunities. She compares it to playing a game of chess where strategy is key in the direction you take.

I come from a family of immigrants who came to America to conquer the American dream with the start of small family-owned business and have made it so far. I have watched and learned that anything is possible. If you put your mind towards a business, you can watch it sprout into something you’ve never imagined, and that mindset is why I love the study of business.

"One company I admire is Set Active– an athleisure company which was started by a girl with a crazy idea and has turned into a huge activewear company that makes $7.7 million annually. It’s a company about making girls feel beautiful in their body, especially at places like the gym where their self-esteem may be the lowest.

One thing I love about Set is the connection they have with their customers. They say they’re a community first and a brand second and that goes to show where their heart is at. I greatly value companies who are open to conversation and stay up to date with things going on in the world, and I believe that is truly one of the reasons they are so successful. Set Active serves as an inspiration to me and I know with the right mindset, and the right ideas, an opportunity will land on my front door, and I can achieve my dreams of becoming a successful woman in business and show the world what I can do it."

"I grew up very involved in the South Asian community. There have been countless activities I have been involved with to enhance and grow my community. One thing I can particularly think of is being involved as a volunteer for my Hindu Temple. We have seminars every Sunday where adults and kids of the Indian community get together to learn more about the Hindu culture. In today’s generation there are many distractions in the world and people forget about their roots and don't care much to learn about their culture and religion. As someone who cares about the Hindu culture and my community, I take great pride in volunteering at my temple and enhancing the Indian community to help teach individuals about what makes them who they are."
Meet Elena!

**Elena Boger**

Junior

Major – Logistics Management

Marysville High School

Marysville, OH

"I began my time at OSU in the Exploratory Program, unsure of what major fit me and future career opportunities the best. As I explored classes my freshman year, I discovered the versatility of business as a field of study. I specifically chose to pursue a Bachelor's in Logistics Management due to the organization and importance of the field. Taking classes within the other specializations will allow me to visualize how parts of businesses connect. The wide variety of skills I can gain provides confidence that I would be a well-rounded graduate from Fisher College of Business. Business is a good fit for me due to the opportunity of leadership positions, teamwork, and ability to work with new technology. I enjoy math, critical thinking, and working with others. The financial stability and possible advancements were another notable benefit I considered when deciding. There is also comfort in knowing that all businesses need the movement and storage of goods.

The business that has inspired me to pursue a business degree the most is McAuliffe's Ace Hardware, where I have worked the past 4 years. As a small and family-owned business, I have been able to gain knowledge of how it runs as a whole. There is a sense of community and responsibility among all of the employees that transfers to the connections with customers. The operational organization is also delegated through departments with different learning objectives. Our managers make sure we complete daily goals while making it an enjoyable work environment. I have had the opportunity to be trained in many departments and lead by training new hires.

Other companies I admire and have been able to job shadow at are Safelite AutoGlass and Honda Marysville. Within their logistics practices specifically they work with the newest technology to work effectively and efficiently. Their goals are to keep their customers happy while improving the systems and costs of the business. Honda specifically is proud of their ability to connect their logistics strategy with their corporate one. Both companies made efforts toward improving the environment with shorter truck routes and assembly processes, which is another good aspect in the future of businesses.

I am excited to be part of the Pathways to Supply Chain Program and have the opportunity to learn about a career in supply chain from the program's corporate sponsors leaders."
Meet Kennedy!

Kennedy Tucker
Sophomore
Major – Operations Management,
Bishop Hartley High School
Columbus, OH

"From a young age, I discovered my passion for business. From outselling everyone in my 8th grade fundraiser to creating my first E-commerce business called Gloss Boss By Kennedy, I grew more in my love for entrepreneurship. I have strived to explore every avenue on my road to becoming a business major. While this is all relevant to why I picked my major, I don’t think I could have done it without the guidance of my mentor. A young entrepreneur herself, she opened my eyes to a world that I can now reach. She hosted a week-long overnight summer camp at The Ohio State University that helped young women further explore their interests and future careers. This all comes full circle considering that my freshman year here, I lived across from the dorm where I spent the summer of 2018 meeting other amazing young women. I also don’t believe it’s coincidental that I am enrolled in the Fisher College of Business, the location where my summer session took place. This experience was a pivotal moment, as it set in stone what I wanted to pursue in college.

I am interested in pursuing a major in operations management because I believe it is a critical function in any organization and has a direct impact on its success which is why I am excited to be part of the Pathways program. I have always had a love for business and organization. I am intrigued by the challenges involved in managing complex systems and finding ways to optimize them for maximum performance.

I am someone who loves getting involved. From being a 3-sport athlete in high school, to volunteering at the library once a week and even being a member of the Business Scholars program, I have done a lot. While those are all things that bring me joy, nothing can top the excitement I get from being a Fisher Ambassador. Recently I got accepted into the Fisher Ambassadors program. I am currently working there this summer to gain some experience under my belt. I give tours to prospective students. Giving tours and being an ambassador allows me to give back and be an example like others were for me. I remember being in their shoes just a year ago and connecting with a girl by the name of Washington. Now we work together! I really enjoy this job because I love telling people about how great the Fisher College of Business is. I also love being able to tell my story about how I ended up at The Ohio State University. This is my favorite involvement because I feel like I have the power to positively impact someone's life.
Alexis Barton is a senior in Fisher College of Business double majoring in Logistics and Operations Management. She was a Scholar as a 1st year student in 2021-22, a peer mentor last year, and currently serving as a lead peer mentor this year.

She has had the opportunity to intern at the J.M. Smucker Co. at their headquarters located in Orrville, Ohio this summer. She was a part of the Warehousing and Supply Chain Analytics team. Alexis is thrilled to recently have accepted a full-time opportunity with PepsiCo/Frito-Lay. She will be working as a Supply Chain and Engineering Associate Analyst at their supply chain headquarters in Plano, TX!

“What working with the Pathways program as a peer mentor for the past two years only feels right as this program has given me so much. Pathways has been a pivotal piece of my experience here at Ohio State. From declaring my specialization, receiving guidance, real conversations, developing professionally, making meaningful connections, learning what the real world of supply chain can entail, and so much more, this program has my heart.

My biggest piece of advice is three-fold: never underestimate yourself, know when to be vulnerable, and never get bored!”
Virtual Meeting with Former Pathways Scholars Lindsey Rowane and Remi Weir

On Friday, November 17th, Lindsey and Remi met virtually with our current and former pathways scholars to talk about their respective experiences as a Pathways Scholar, being a student at OSU, accepting their job offers, as well as what attracted them to Deloitte. They also stated that the Pathways program was an integral part of their OSU experience and opened the door to several career opportunities including their offers from Deloitte. They are both part of the Enterprise Performance Supply Chain Network Operations group; Lindsey, as an GPS Analyst focused on the Airforce as her primary client group and Remi, as a Business Analyst focused on a Global Aerospace & Defense Contractor. They spent time answering several questions about their roles, interviewing, what to look for in an employer and relocating.

Thank you to Lindsey and Remi for taking time out of their busy schedules to facilitate the meeting and pay it forward to the Pathways Scholars who have come after you.
As the Pathways Scholars wrap up their finals and head into their winter break, we want to take a moment to thank you for your commitment to the Pathways to Supply Chain Program.

We wish you all a safe, healthy and Happy Holiday Season!

Happy New Year!
Birthdays!!

December 21 – A'Shaunti Boyd
December 29 – Elena Boger
January 4 – Lauren Millard
January 7 – Kayla Astrab
January 15 – Kennedy Tucker
January 17 - Rachael Johnson

What’s coming up?

January 19 – DHL Visit

Newsletter 1 Recap

November 3 - Johnson Controls and Mattress Firm on-campus presentation
November 17 – Zoom with Lindsey Rowane and Remi Weir from Deloitte
November 22-24 – Thanksgiving Break (no classes)
December 1 – Encova Visit
Let’s get connected!

Want to be featured in the next newsletter?

- Submit a quote here!
- Submit photos from Pathways events or with other scholars or mentors here!
- Reach out to Alaina @ Croskey.39@osu.edu if you’d like to be featured

Join our LinkedIn Group here!
This program, offered by the Operations and Business Analytics Department, is a combination scholarship and experiential engagement program that will introduce female undergraduates to supply chain careers earlier in their college experience and provide them with the opportunities to engage with industry executives in a mentoring capacity.

Dr. Kenneth K. Boyer, Fisher Designated Professor
Dr. Mi Kyong Newsom, Lean Six Sigma Academic Director, Clinical Assistant Professor
Prof. Bonnie Schroeder, Senior Lecturer
Prof. Whitney Mantonya, Senior Lecturer
Molly Miller, Program Manager

Learn more at:
go.osu.edu/PathwaysforWomeninSupplyChain