

Taylor Blackburn

Independent Study & Mentorship

Speice 2A

October 23, 2016

### Setting Up for Success

#### Weekly Report 10/17 to 10/23

This week I finally set my background that I will be building on throughout the year. Through my topic proposal and finalizing my designs in my digital portfolio and binder, I now have a good base to continue researching and interviewing other individuals. The pattern of my year so far has been a dominating week where I schedule plenty of interviews and then a following week to catch up on assessments and other assignments. The course of my progress will change as I can build off of current projects I have instead of starting from scratch each week. Also, the knowledge I have gained so far in pharmacy has benefitted and allowed me to interpret articles and the interviews I've had with various sales, clinical, and retail pharmacists.

By establishing my topic for the rest of the year, it has given me the confidence to look further into my future. Through rediscovering the roots of my interest in pharmacy allowed me to gain excitement about what to look into for further research and how to expand my study on the field. However, there are still minor details to perfect, but there is always room for improvement- an ideology that I am beginning to apply on how I perceive my future career. Some common skills found in pharmacists are intellect, passion, and good communication skills. Most of these qualities come naturally to me, but are an area of growth as I develop my interpersonal skills through meeting my mentor and expanding on my final project.

I feel successful as I have conducted four interviews and a hope for to schedule two interviews at Baylor Medical Centers at different locations as I have contacted the pharmacy managers and am waiting on a call back. However, I haven't felt a strong connection to most of the professionals I have interviewed so far and I am hoping that one person will stand out to me in the coming weeks. As some of my peers have already found their mentors and are planning ahead for ISM, I hope I will be able to have a beneficial interview and feel strongly about the experience they have had and what I can expect to learn from them.

Another aspect of this week is the finalization of the setup of my digital portfolio and binder that is filled with the assignments I have completed this far in the year. I am excited for my website to go live as I can get a look at how the public will see in my portfolio. Getting feedback from peers about the arrangement of specific pages and how to better the overall appearance and content to adjust to how the public will perceive my information will be beneficial as well. Another addition that would add intrigue to my website are uploading pictures that visually describe my experience with my mentor and depict my interest in pharmacy as the year continues.

My short-term goals have been fulfilled but I strive to complete my long term goals of maintaining good grades that reflect my dedication in ISM and developing professional skills that have a noticeable difference from my first speech to the presentation of my final project at the end of the year.