**Mentor Visit Assessment #7**

**Mentor:** Karen Kim

**Profession:** Director of Marketing and Communications

**Location:** Frisco Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** February 26, 2019

**Time:** 11:00am - 12:00pm

**Assessment:**

For my eighth mentor visit, I met Karen the Tuesday after my first article was published in the Frisco Enterprise newspaper! My favorite part of this visit was receiving a couple of copies of the paper so I could have a version of my article in print, and that was an amazing experience. Holding a piece of my work that someone thought was worthy to include on such a wide reaching platform changed my life, and made me believe that I can really succeed as a writer. I am seventeen years old and published already, all because of my amazing mentor and the fact that I gathered the courage to study what I truly love this year instead of what I thought would make me successful. I still cannot really fathom that I have achieved all that I have, and it is inspiring me to achieve more and more! The main purpose of this mentor visit was to talk about my published article, my newest article for my final product, and publishing my ISM article on the Chamber website.

The most exciting part of observing Karen’s work during this visit was getting to see the behind the scenes of how she constructs and updates the Frisco Chamber website as she published my article online. She showed me how she enters in blog posts, how she organizes the files on her computer, and I had the chance to write a bio about myself so that people reading the piece online could learn more about me. It was fun to write about myself in the third person because I felt like I got to practice the style of writing for a media platform, and it made me feel more confident as a professional writer. Not only that, but as I have continually worked on my final product my confidence in my writing ability has increased immensely. From getting the opportunity to do volunteer work for Karen and her coworkers at the Chamber to the countless observation hours that I have received in the office, my independent study this year has done so much more for me than any other program or opportunity that I have received in the past. I am very hopeful for the future, especially my final product, as I carry my achievements with me through the start of my career. I am excited for our next mentor visit, since we will discuss my finished article, and we talk more about the next article I could write for the Chamber website in order to get more of my work published. I am truly grateful for everything Karen does for me!

Last week, I went on two unofficial mentor visits that were originally purposed to grant me service hours but they turned into learning experiences and networking events I will not forget. It is so great to walk into the office every week and have everyone know who I am and be willing to work with me and offer me advice. Truly, as I go on more mentor visits I become more confident as a writer and professional. A huge thank you goes out to all of the Chamber staff!