**Research Assessment #4**

**Date:** October 3, 2018

**Subject:** Business Symposium

**Assessment:**

For my fourth research assessment, I am writing about the Business Symposium that occured on Wednesday, October 3, at Independence High School this year. This was my second time attending the event, and since I went as an ISM 2 student, I felt much more confident than last year because I knew what to expect! I was able to focus on networking rather than my nerves, which I believe was much more beneficial to me. One thing that was different this year than last year was that second year ISM students had the opportunity to interview first year ISM students to practice being on the other side of things. Getting to be the interviewer instead of the interviewee was certainly enlightening, and I really enjoyed it because I loved hearing about what the other ISM students were pursuing and currently working on.

This year, I interviewed with one professional, Mickey Arellano, who is an electrical engineer. It was very helpful to sit down and have a conversation with him, even if we are in strikingly different fields. He said my resume impressed him, and we discussed my experience at Children’s raising 14,000 dollars last year with the rest of the board. The part of our interview that stood out to me the most was when Mr. Arellano suggested that I look into the field of business because he saw an administrative side to me that came naturally. Ever since he mentioned this I have been thinking about it, and that led me to think about how I could combine business and writing as a career.

One of my favorite parts of the symposium was hearing the ISM alumni speak, because looking at each of them I could clearly tell they all had their lives put together, and that is where I want to be in four years instead of the uncertain place I am stuck in currently as I wait for college decisions. Sarah Lafleur particularly stood out to me because she changed her career path multiple times, sort of similar to the way I have, and she loves what she does now which gives me hope for the future. I truly believe that the skills I am gaining by being an active part of this program are brightening my future, and am grateful to have been selected for not one but two years in a row.

All in all, I really liked the symposium this year. I noticed there were fewer professionals present, though that was only because many that committed did not show. There were many more students however, I think twice as much. This makes me extremely happy because it seems that the word is finally getting out about ISM. This program will do so much for a person, and absolutely shape their future. It is very important for students to actively seek out advice and network because it proves they care and sets them apart from the already heavy competition that is only becoming heavier. Ultimately, I am lucky to have participated in this event for two years, and hope that one day I can be an alumni who tells my story.