

Alyssa Cook

**Graduation Year:** Junior

**College:** Business

**Major(s):** Finance

**Minors(s):** Sociology

**Scholar Group Membership:** N/a

**Did you received other funding for this project?:** No

**Could you have completed this project without CUSE funding? No**

**More details on CUSE funding assistance?**

**Project Title:** SEO New York Conference

**Project Location:** New York City

**ND Faculty Mentor:** N/a

**Project Type:** Conference - Attendance

**Why did you undertake this project/experience?** Deepen your knowledge of a topic or issue, Career discernment and/or preparation

**Did your funded experience help you:**

**[Deepen your understanding of your coursework or field of study]:** Very Much

**[Discern your interests and post-bac goals]:** Very Much

**[Become confident in your ability to set and achieve your goals]:** Very Much

**[Gain a more nuanced view of local, national, or global communities]:** A Little

**[Improve your written and verbal communications skills]:** Yes

**Tell us about your experience.**

I had an amazing time attending the Sponsors for Educational Opportunity Conference and internship training week. During the conference, I learned about the requirements for a career in finance. Throughout the week, me and the other participants visited financial businesses such as Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, and JP Morgan. We attended seminars where speakers such as Carla Harris, Henry Kravis, and Joe Plumari spoke about their experiences in the field. I also attended seminars where I learned about excel, financial statements, financial statement modeling, alternative investments, business writing and speaking. During this week, I had the opportunity to meet my fellow participants and engage in multiple networking events.

**Describe the impact this project had, both on you as a student-scholar and on the people you worked with.**

This conference allowed me to learn more about my opportunities in the finance career field. The ability to meet CEOs, vice presidents, and analyst really solidified my interest. Because of the extensive seminars that were offered during this week, I feel extremely prepared for my internship this summer as well as for internships in the future. I also learned some topics that will be brought up during my future studies in Mendoza and this conference has helped me gain

a good understanding of those concepts before I take those classes. I also gained a solid network of advisors and students who have the same interest in me and I look forward to leveraging those relationships someday in the future.

**Describe how this experience is connected to your plans as a student or future professional.**

I want to get into investment banking. This experience has helped me learn more about that field than I ever thought possible. It has prepared me for my private equity internship this summer and it has prepared me for interviews that I will go through for internships next summer. The networking has helped me gain valuable relationships with other motivated professionals and these men and women will be people that I work with in the near future. The topics that I learned such as alternative investments and financial statement modeling will be very helpful to me in my future Mendoza classes where I will be able to review the conference materials to help prepare for tests and presentations.

**What advice would you give other students who are planning to pursue similar projects?**

My advice would be to get out and network as much as possible. In the field of finance success is half what you know and half who you know. This opportunity is one that allowed me to learn a lot more material but it was my responsibility to meet more people and put myself out there so that people will know me and want to work with me. In a big city such as New York the finance industry is actually a small world so if you make a good impression on one person, it will be noticed by others.

I acknowledge that this form has been filled out truthfully and to the best of my ability. I understand that this information will be shared with many different CUSE constituencies. As such, I have provided as much useful information as I was able. I understand that CUSE will not complete my award disbursement until this form is successfully completed. If I have any questions or concerns, I will contact CUSE before submitting this form. To illustrate that you understand all of these points, please enter your Notre Dame email in the box below.  
acook7@nd.edu

