



## What my first PRSSA International Conference taught me

Discovering that the PRSSA Foundation had granted me a scholarship to attend the 2019 PRSSAIC was a huge deal for me because it gave me the opportunity to get out there, pitch myself and engage.

From gaining powerful insights from PR leaders to having face-to-face conversations with them, I left conference with a much broader network and even a job recruiter who called me afterward in regards to a potential internship. In just five days, conference changed the course of my career and here are three main things it taught me:

1. PR pros genuinely want to pass the baton to future leaders like me. Seriously. Seeing the current PR leaders at conference sharing their own experiences and empowering young professionals with industry knowledge and values mentored me intensely.
2. Day-long conference sessions bring students from different backgrounds together to acknowledge we are not alone in this journey. Think about it. Conference has the kind of attendees you want to be around. When I attended conference, I was amazed at how many fellow college students shared they were going through the same professional challenges I am facing.
3. Coffee breaks on the conference agenda mean it's time to put those business cards to use. Don't be afraid! Networking at conference was a game changer for my career, and I am glad I had those meaningful dialogues that only made conference more enjoyable.

When I think about my time at conference, nothing but good memories come to my mind. The tools, resources and tutoring I obtained thanks to the PRSSA Foundation stand out from all the opportunities I've had as an undergraduate student, and I encourage everyone to make plans to attend next year's conference in Nashville to fill themselves with professional inspiration and information as I did.

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