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Program: MSCM

THE SCALE CONNECT

My SCALE Connect experience can definitely be categorized as unique and once in a life-time! Although I have been to Boston and MIT before, I have never done it with a group of such talented students from MISI, joining with 150+ other students from around the world in the SCALE network. It was refreshing to see the energy display by our MISI students as soon as we landed in Boston.



The whole SCALE Connect experience was very diverse in every sense of the word from the people you meet to the type of activities that were planned for all the students. We got a mixture of top executives interviewed series from different industries to MIT professors who shared with us many interesting research that they are working on. There was educational class such as Python and Llamasoft to business-oriented projects such as shark tanks and supply chain game. In addition, the tours of both Walgreens DC and 6 River Systems allow me to see technology such as robotics and automation in practice! Mix in with all of these activities were tons of opportunities for networking within the official schedule as well as outside of the classroom. A key activity on top of networking was, of course, the research fest! Below are some additional details into some of the activity mentioned above that I felt was vital experiences during the SCALE Connect.

About educational learning, I enjoy the week-long session on Llamasoft. These class introduced us to a network optimization software that can be quite powerful if leveraged correctly with useful available data. We learn to build a basic supply chain network within the program and create different scenarios to understand the financial impact on key metrics such as fixed costs for start-up and total transportation costs. At the end of the course, we had the opportunity to be tested on our knowledge and received certification on the software "Network Design Basics."

The speaker's series of both industry leaders and MIT researchers were also quite informative and thought-provoking. There are a couple of speakers that stood out well, such as Lynn Torrel (Chief supply chain and procurement officer from Flex) who spoke about her experience during the transition where she managed a supply chain with over \$22B in yearly spend during the past 18 months. Dr. Coughlin, who pointed out with data that the demographics of people aged 55 and over control 70% of buying power within advanced economies.



There are activities such as the supply chain game challenge and a shark tank game where it helped us to utilize our teamwork skills. The objective and learning for these two games were good as it challenged us to build a business case as well as designed an optimized network. An area of improvement, however, is the participation and previous knowledge of the game from different team members can vary greatly. However, you can always count on team members from your school to show up and support in all activity schedules as well as getting to know each other more outside of the classroom setting.



Finally, you cannot talk about the SCALE Connect without mentioning the experience of The Research Fest. For one night, there were students from all over the world that had the opportunity to not only present but sell their project/thesis to both MIT

professors and industry leaders alike. Set in a building close to the Charles River with a beautiful view of the city, more than 90+ innovative projects were presented for 2 hours span with a nice break in between for networking. I was fortunate to have both the sponsor of my thesis, along with the company leaders there for support.



Overall, I enjoyed the SCALE Connect and all the amazing experiences it has to offer at such an incredible institution with fellow supply chain leaders from around the MIT SCALE Network Centers. This masters program would definitely not be the same without the SCALE Connect!

Highlights:

- Llamasoft
- Networking
- Interesting research and experience shared by industry leaders and MIT professors.

Quote: "I enjoyed the SCALE Connect and all the amazing experiences it has to offer at such an incredible institution with fellow supply chain leaders from around the MIT SCALE Network centers. This masters program would definitely not be the same without the SCALE Connect!"