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THE SCALE CONNECT

I would like to thank MISI for such an enjoyable learning experience. Although I am supposed to write only three main highlights, I would like to share all my experiences and thoughts.

Transport & Accommodation

Arrangements of flight to Boston was decent with stops not being more than 4 hours at the transits. Each stop provided enough time to transit to another with ample time of leg rest before the next flight, although it would have been better to have only two stops rather than 3, as it made the journey longer.

Llamasoft program

Distribution & network design thinking. This was an interesting software which I wish we had more time to “play” around with it. Going through this course, it has made me aware of different aspects of different policies and how it would affect the supply chain network. Llamasoft is an interesting software that could act as a sandbox simulation to try out different ways of designing the network. I would definitely use this as it seems rather user-friendly.

Sharktank

It is a good way for us to collaborate and work with students from different campuses. It was also good to know others who share the same interest in the supply chain field. Getting to know what they think about certain issues and how they would solve it gives much inspiration to improve better on our supply chain knowledge for the betterment of all human beings.



Python skillset

As we are getting more and more data eccentric, the "excel" way might not have the capability to support/compute large data quantity. I do agree that some students felt that it is a waste of time, as in the real world, these data will be collected and compiled by others as long as we as a supply chain professionals know what data we want and need. However, I believe MIT has made a call for us to learn at least the basic structure and understand some of the capabilities of Python. It is a good thing because there are times that even the data collectors may not fully know what we want, therefore by knowing something about Python, it would allow us to make adjustments or analysis quicker without waiting for others.

Strength Finder

Although there are many personalities or characteristics tests out there. There are very few that are testing one's strengths and weaknesses. This was an interesting test provided by the MIT, and it seems somewhat accurate. With the test, we were able to understand ourselves better and focus on harnessing our strength through work and knowing how to "market" ourselves during the interview.

Networking

I would consider myself an introvert as I seldom mixed around with others, and I sometimes found it hard to share any common topics with others. However, the networking session at MIT is different. Everyone has something in common, which is the supply chain. Everyone brought their experiences and knowledge from their work, where I learned how various industries operated their supply chain and the challenges they faced. At least it inspired me to think about improvements I can do when I get back to work.

Site visits

The most exciting site visit would be to Walgreen, where they showed their automated warehouse. The plant manager then shared about some of the downsides to automation. It was an eye-opener to know that there are flaws in supply chain automation. This situation showed that people should have an awareness that limitations do exist in technologies.

SCALE Connect speaker series

There were many exciting speakers, but there was one that inspired me the most, which is VP of the supply chain from Delta, Heather Otis. She has very in-depth knowledge in the supply chain, and she was able to answer all the questions I asked, from the front-line services to the back-end maintenance. After her talk, I attended the career chat session, and she shared her life story and experience, which I can relate to myself! At least, now I have some ideas about life and the career that I want.



Research Expo

This is one of the main events of the SCALE Connect. I am glad to showcase my research and see the rest of other research showcases too. I was able to see some exciting topics by other fellow students and even had the chance to understand further about their research. Some researchers are useful, and I thought to apply them at work. I have gotten their contact to understand the applications of their ideas further.

Overall experiences

Overall, it was a great experience, and I enjoyed my time there.

Quote: "Overall, SCALE Connect was a great experience, and I enjoyed my time there."