

# GENESYS WORKS FEBRUARY 2021 CCC CONFERENCE SESSION OVERIEWS AND SPEAKER BIOS

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**9am**      **PC Cohort Gathering**

**9:10am**    **Welcome: Jeff Artis**

Join us in welcoming Genesys Works' new CEO!

**9:15am**    **Keynote: Hoan Do**

In this inspiring and interactive keynote, you will understand that your ability to succeed is not determined by your age, background, or knowledge but rather by the decisions that you make each and every day.

**10am**      **Prize Raffle #1**

Raffle prizes include gift cards to Amazon, Etsy, Target, Uber Eats, & Half Price Books.

**10:10am**   **Session #1**

Sessions include: *BIPOC Panel: Finding community post-high school, Business Owner Panel, Discovering Majors & Careers, Everything Changes: Charting a career course in a shifting landscape, Investing Basics: Five steps to building a disciplined investment strategy, Learning To Negotiate Your Salary & Benefits, Tax Tips & Banking Basics, Well Now What? Genesys Works Alumni Resources & You!, & You Are Enough: How everyone can find a place in technology.*

**10:55am**   **Prize Raffle #2**

Raffle prizes include gift cards to Amazon, Etsy, Target, Uber Eats, Zappos, & Half Price Books.

**11:05am**   **Session #2**

Sessions include: *Careers in Nonprofit Organizations, Credit: Good credit versus bad credit, How to Navigate the University of Minnesota (UMN 101), Human Resources 2.0: Get hired, Making Your Own Career Path: How to decide where you want to go & how to get there, Making Your Own Instagram Filters, Networking Secrets to Make Sure YOU Get Noticed, Get Hired, & Get Paid, TDP 101: The Talent Development Pipeline experience, & Trust the Process.*

**11:50am**   **Prize Raffle #3**

Raffle prizes include gift cards to Amazon, Etsy, Target, Uber Eats, & Zappos.

**12pm**      **Session #3**

Sessions include: *Codeswitching, Keeping It Real - No Cap, First-Year Financial Aid, Life Abroad: Living & learning outside of the U.S., Put Your Interests to Action, So You Think You Want a Career in Cyber Security?, Started from Genesys Works & Now We're Here in a Tech Career, Turning Social Activism into a Profession, & Youth Leadership & Activism.*

**12:45pm**   **Closing**

Final raffle prize is a Visa gift card.

## SESSION OVERVIEWS & SESSION BIOS

### KEYNOTE // 9:15AM

#### Keynote: Choosing to Succeed

In this inspiring and interactive keynote, you will understand that your ability to succeed is not determined by your age, background, or knowledge but rather by the decisions that you make each and every day. Some of the things you will learn are: How to change your attitude during difficult times, a simple strategy to stack the odds in your favor to achieve your most important goals, and the three most important relationships that will support you in achieving success.



#### Speaker: Hoan Do, Inspirational Speaker & Author of *Succeeding in the Real World*

Hoan Do is an award-winning inspirational speaker, author of *Succeeding in the Real World*, and a city finalist in NBC's hit show, *American Ninja Warrior*.

Raised by immigrant parents who escaped Vietnam after the war, Hoan understood at a young age the importance of resilience and grit. For the past 10 years, Hoan's practical strategies have empowered over a quarter of a million people from over 400 companies, organizations, and schools, to overcome their life adversities.

Hoan was recently recognized as on the top 25 influential people in Seattle and his work has been featured on Good Morning America, Yahoo Finance, NBC, and the Chicago Tribune.

Learn more about Hoan's story and see him in action by going to [www.HoanDo.com](http://www.HoanDo.com).

### SESSION #1 // 10:10AM

#### BIPOC Panel: Finding community post-high school

#### Tracks: All, College/University

#### Assignments: #2 Informational Interview #11 Involvement #14 College 101

Having a strong support network is crucial for many BIPOC individuals when trying to survive college. Listen in as a few of them discuss how they found community and empowerment while attending predominantly white colleges and universities. Q and A to follow.



#### Moderator: Janyesha Jackson, Program Coordinator, Genesys Works

Janyesha was born and raised in the historic Rondo neighborhood in Saint Paul, MN. She graduated college in 2016 with a degree in Organizational Communications from Metropolitan State University. Her passion for working with young people sprouted from her own personal involvement in youth programs located in the Twin Cities.



#### Panelist: Esha Seth, Program Director, Association of Nonsmokers - MN



**Panelist: Alexis Stanley, Senior, Concordia University St. Paul**



**Panelist: Yakasah Wehyee, Council Member, Falcon Heights**

### **Business Owner Panel**

**Tracks: All, College/University, Career/Training**

**Assignments: #2 Informational Interview #15 Degree Planning, #20 Job Shadowing/Employer Visits**

What does it take to be your own boss? Learn from a panel of owners, founders, and CEOs of three Twin Cities businesses.



**Panelist: Dalton Outlaw, Founder & CEO, Element Boxing and Fitness DBA Element Gym**

He's a husband and father of four sons. A Saint Paul native and 2009 Concordia Saint Paul graduate who played football there for two years, he was the first and youngest in his family to graduate from college. At age 23 years old after graduating from college, he decided to start his own business and establish a nonprofit organization. 10 years later, he's still there - alive, well, and operating in one of the largest training facilities in the Twin Cities.



**Panelist: Thinkh Pham, Owner & CEO, iPho by Saigon**

Think graduated from the University of Saint Thomas with an Accounting degree. They purchased the restaurant in 2011 and revamped the business. From there, they were able to expand to a few more locations and explore other investment opportunities.



**Panelist: Analita Silva, Co-Owner & Director of Catering, El Burrito Mercado**

Analita is a 3rd generation owner of El Burrito Mercado, a grocery store and Mexican restaurant on the West Side of St. Paul. Her main role is to cater large events, such as weddings and graduation parties. She is a graduate of the University of St. Thomas, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Family Studies and Spanish, and is currently in graduate school at Minnesota State University, Mankato for a Masters in Education. She lives in St. Paul with her fiance Shaun and is the mother of a beautiful 22-month-old.

### **Discovering Majors & Careers**

**Tracks: College/University**

**Assignments: #15 Degree Planning**

There is a lot of misinformation about majors. In this session, we will dismantle myths about majors and explore ways in which you can prepare to find your area of interest.



**Speaker: Seborn Yancy, Dean of Academics & Career Counseling, Maranatha Christian Academy**

Seborn graduated with a BA and MA from Concordia University-Saint Paul. He has had the privilege of serving 11 years in education as an admission counselor, academic advisor in higher education, and for the past seven years, in secondary education as a school administrator. Seborn has a passion for education and equipping students for post-secondary success and beyond.

**Everything Changes: Charting a career course in a shifting landscape**

**Tracks: All, College/University, Career/Training**

**Assignments: #2 Informational Interview, #15 Degree Planning, #20 Job Shadowing/Employer Visits**

Careers bring together interests, skills, and opportunities. Opportunities appear when they do, skills increase slowly over time, and interests come and go. In this presentation, Dr. Benton will describe his own unpredictable career path and will share lessons he learned about navigating all three--and the surprising results. Participants will learn tips on how to strategize for the future and to adapt to the present.



**Speaker: Richard Benton, PhD, Scrum Master & IT Manager, Ecolab**

Dr. Benton has worked in IT for eight years, at Ecolab, managing Agile transformation, critical incident response, PC rollouts, and communications efforts in multiple areas. Before Ecolab and IT, he worked as a university professor in Wisconsin, Washington (state), Ukraine, and Lebanon, where he taught Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, Jewish history and Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). In his spare time, he currently enjoys teaching, writing, and learning languages.

**Investing Basics: Five steps to building a disciplined investment strategy**

**Tracks: All**

**Assignments: #5 Financial Literacy #7 Adulting**

Your money should make you more money. Learn about five steps that you can start today. Help your future be financially stable and more!



**Speaker: Brian Kelly, Wealth Management Advisor, Northwestern Mutual**

As a Wealth Management Advisor with Northwestern Mutual for over 15 years, Brian has developed a process to help families clarify their vision, take control of their finances, and secure their financial future. His team delivers financial security by combining this unique planning approach with world-class insurance services and internationally recognized investment products. Brian is a 1999 Graduate of St. John's University where he played football and served in Student Government. He currently lives in St Louis Park with his wife Carin and two children, Grace & Myles.

**Learning to Negotiate Your Salary & Benefits**

**Tracks: All, Career Training**

**Assignments: #2 Informational Interview, #7 Adulting, #20 Job Shadowing/Employer Visits**

Join this session to learn how to know your worth and negotiate the salary and benefits you deserve at your next job.





### Speaker: Megan Meuli, Program Director, Dress for Success

With nearly 20 years of career development experience, Megan Meuli has been assisting women in the midst of career transition from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds, ages, and lifestyle needs in private practice, non-profit, and university settings. She oversees the development and implementation of all four Dress for Success Twin Cities programs.

#### Tax Tips & Banking Basics

##### Tracks: All

##### Assignments: #5 Financial Literacy, #7 Adulting

Taxes and banking are both very complex systems that can be tricky to navigate if you don't know what to look out for. We'll cover some of the basics that will help guide you and hopefully prevent expensive errors. We'll also share information about all of the free programs Prepare + Prosper offers to support your financial health.



### Speaker: David Langley, Outreach Coordinator, Prepare and Prosper

David works to build public awareness and excitement for P+P programs, connect people with vital resources, as well as creating program participant pipelines and stewarding hundreds of partnerships with other organizations.

#### Well, Now What? Genesys Works Alumni Resources & You!

##### Tracks: College/University,

##### Assignments: #11 Involvement

What happens once your GW internship ends? The College and Career Team is here for you as you navigate your next journey! Join this session to learn what resources and opportunities are available to you as GW Alumni - whether your next steps include college, career, or something else! We'll also explore common resources available to you at your college or in your community.



### Speaker: Jackie Bisson, College Success Specialist, Genesys Works

As the College Success Specialist, Jackie serves Genesys Works students currently enrolled in college and strives to build and maintain relationships with Twin Cities colleges and universities. Jackie has a passion for working to increase inclusion, equity, and social mobility. Her background in the University of Wisconsin system provided her with experiences mentoring and advocating for historically underserved, limited-income, and first-generation students. Jackie completed her bachelor's degree in Sociology and her master's degree in Student Affairs Administration at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

#### You Are Enough: How everyone can find a place in technology

##### Tracks: All, College/University, Career/Training

##### Assignments: #2 Informational Interview, #15 Degree Planning, #20 Job Shadowing/Employer Visits

The technology industry builds tools that shape people's lives and our society – so it's important to include people from all backgrounds and perspectives in decisions about how those tools are designed, developed, and marketed. It's also important for people who work in technology to practice skills like empathy, curiosity, and challenging their own biases.

Liz Tupper, Director of Product Strategy at Software for Good, will share her journey in tech and how she learned to create a place for herself in the industry. And she'll discuss how everyone has something to contribute to building technology that better serves people and the planet.



### **Speaker: Liz Tupper, Director of Product Strategy, Software for Good**

Liz Tupper (she/her/they/them) is Director of Product Strategy at Software for Good, leading the strategy team's efforts to explore the technology that best meets people's needs and help for-good clients achieve their goals for positive impact.

A self-proclaimed geek with two plus decades of technology experience, Liz is known for her leadership in the Minneapolis tech community. Since beginning her career as a front-end software developer, she has worked in the Internet of things (IoT), mobile app, web, and video game industries.

Liz is passionate about working towards a zero waste lifestyle, serving on the board of directors at Eureka Recycling, and about putting empathy first when designing and developing new products.

## **SESSION #2 // 11:05AM**

### **Careers in Nonprofit Organizations**

**Tracks: All, College/University, Career/Training**

**Assignments: #2 Informational Interview #15 Degree Planning #20 Job Shadowing/Employer Visits**

Nonprofit organizations are designed to benefit the public. Project for Pride in Living, YMCA of the North, and NDN collective are all doing great work to help the community. These panelists contribute to that work in various ways. Check out this panel to learn about careers in nonprofit organizations.



### **Panelist: Randa Ayoub, Director of Equity & Community Partnership, YMCA of the North**

Randa is second generation immigrant who grew up in Minneapolis. She has always had a deep passion for developing and creating equitable opportunities. She has also always had a passion for youth development. She graduated from the university with a Bachelor's in Communications and a Masters in Youth development and leadership. She has worked for the YMCA for the past 18 years and recently got to create a new position for herself in the organization. Randa believes the internal work you do for yourself quantifies the experience of others.



### **Panelist: Korina Barry, Managing Director of NDN Action, NDN Collective**

Korina Barry is a citizen of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Mni Sota Makoce. As a social worker, she supported and advocated for children, youth, and families in Indian Child Welfare for more than 15 years. Korina has extensive experience in public policy, partnership and coalition building, and grassroots movement and campaign management. Through this work, she has led strategy development, digital communications and social media engagement, fundraising, and large-scale event planning. She has worked closely with academic researchers to translate research into policy and practice publications. She has participated in global racial, environmental, and economic justice efforts as a Roy Wilkins Community Fellow and Young Cultural Innovators Fellow. She has a Bachelor's degree in Child Psychology and American Indian Studies and Master's of Social Work degree from the University of Minnesota.



### **Panelist: Quentin Moore, Director of Development, Project for Pride in Living**

From the Penumbra Theater in St. Paul, where he developed his fundraising expertise, to his time with the Y of the North and now with his leadership at Project for Pride in Living, Quentin has spent close to a decade in the non-profit sector driving fundraising results for organizations. Hailing

from North Minneapolis he crossed the Mississippi River to get his degree from UST. With the exception of being with his lovely wife Janae and new baby Charlotte, Quentin loves nothing more than spending his day with major donors working on complex gifts that fulfill their personal values and meet their philanthropic goals.

### **Credit: Good credit versus bad credit**

#### **Tracks: All**

#### **Assignments: #5 Financial Literacy #7 Adulting**

Dive into the various elements of establishing, building and maintaining a good credit score. We will dive into the framework that makes up a good credit score and the various ways you can use credit in your favor.



#### **Speaker: Haley Coller, Associate, Goldman Sachs**

Haley Coller is a driven and strategic Associate at Goldman Sachs. Using her double major in Public Accounting and Political Science, she has cultivated a career in the fast paced world of finance. Haley's current work is centered around exotic structured products, primarily equity derivatives such as Options, Future/Forwards, and Swaps for the Private Investor Group business. After spending nearly four years working in finance, Haley knows what truly drives client relationships and investment strategies. It's not only making the most money, it's how well you treat people you're trying to help and how well you communicate your understanding of their needs back to them.

Originally from Bloomington, Minnesota, Haley completed her undergraduate studies at Gustavus Adolphus College in 2016. Upon graduation, Haley moved to New York City to join Goldman Sachs. Haley is a class 4 graduate of Genesys Works Twin Cities and now a member of the Genesys National Board. She is passionate about diversity, equity and inclusion and has an immense love for travel. To date, she has been to over 35 countries and has visited 4 of the 7 wonders of the world.

### **How to Navigate the University of Minnesota (UMN 1010)**

#### **Tracks: College/University**

#### **Assignments: #13 School Types, #14 College 101**

This session will help new or prospective students navigate the U of M Twin Cities campus and learn about different resources and opportunities at the University of Minnesota. There will be a presentation on necessary information as well as a time for questions and any advising needed.



#### **Speaker: Amal Kayse, Marketing and Communications Intern, Genesys Works**

Amal is a 3rd-year undergraduate student at the University of Minnesota pursuing a BS in Technical Writing and Communications. She has a passion for digital marketing and UX design and hopes to incorporate those passions into future career opportunities. She aspires to have a career that encourages growth and teamwork, both of which align with her values.

### **Human Resources 2.0: Get hired**

#### **Tracks: All, Career/Training**

#### **Assignments: #2 Informational Interview, #20 Job Shadowing/Employer Visits**

December's CCC Conference had a panel of HR professionals that touched on various employment topics. This session is focused on the do's and don'ts of getting hired!



### **Panelist: Dionne Rushin, Diversity, Engagement, & Talent Specialist, Terex Corporation**

A graduate of the University of St. Thomas, Dionne Rushin has close to 20 years of human resources and recruiting experience and prides herself on building collaborative and long-lasting partnerships. She believes employers should reflect the diversity of the communities are and serve. Over the course of her career, Dionne has worked in a variety of industries ranging from professional sports and entertainment, higher education, manufacturing, and construction, as well as food and hospitality. Dionne is currently the Diversity, Engagement and Talent Specialist for Terex Corp where she is leading the implementation of the company's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion strategy and serves as talent and engagement leader for international corporate functions. In her spare time, Dionne enjoys refurbishing and painting furniture, spending time with her 13 nieces and nephews, volunteering, and cooking.



### **Panelist: Aaron Taylor, Director of Career Development, Campus Culture Group, LLC**

#### **Making Your Own Career Path: How to decide where you want to go & how to get there**

**Tracks: All, College/University, Career/Training**

**Assignments: #1 Motivation, #15 Degree Planning, #20 Job Shadowing/ Employer Visits**

This session will help you plan your career path. There will be a variety of obstacles and opportunities but your road to success starts today!



### **Speaker: Denise Felder, Lead Career Advisor & Facilitator, DeniseMpls Career Services**

Denise Felder started her career in print journalism. When the media tide flowed toward the Internet, she went with it, writing breaking news and entertainment features for a national network of websites. Next, Denise dabbled in reality TV production before Divine Intervention (really!) moved her to serve as an employment coach.

#### **Making Your Own Instagram Filters**

**Tracks: All, College/University, Career/Training**

**Assignments: #2 Informational Interview, #15 Degree Planning, #20 Job Shadowing/Employer Visits**

We'll be learning how to create our own Instagram face filters using Spark AR Studio, and learn a little bit about AI and facial recognition along the way! This session is designed for people with no prior experience with coding or computer science. Download Spark AR Studio before this session here: <https://sparkar.facebook.com/ar-studio/download>.



### **Speaker: Joan Zheng, Associate Researcher, Smart Information Flow Technologies**

Joan is a University of Minnesota graduate and a junior researcher. She works at the intersection of social science, linguistics, and artificial intelligence. She enjoys rock climbing in her free time.



## Networking Secrets to Make Sure YOU Get Noticed, Get Hired, & Get Paid

**Tracks: All, Career/Training**

**Assignments: #2 Informational Interview, #7 Adulting, #20 Job Shadowing/Employer Visits**

If you are serious about launching or elevating a successful career, you must know how to network. Join Sharon for a fun, real, and COLORFULL workshop where you'll learn how to make the right connections to rock your career and your life.



**Speaker: Sharon Smith-Akinsanya, CEO, Rae Mackenzie Group, Inc.**

Sharon Smith-Akinsanya is relentless in her dedication to leveling the playing field and eliminating racial disparities for People of Color. She is the CEO of Rae Mackenzie Group, Inc., an award-winning Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) marketing firm that works with Fortune 500 companies, nonprofits, and top employers to create effective DEI marketing strategies to attract, recruit, and retain Talent of Color. In October 2016, Sharon created People Of Color Career Fair™ as a way of closing the gap between Professionals of Color and hiring managers. She went on to launch People Of Color Careers™ Social Hiring Network—a proprietary equity hiring and career advancement program and platform revolutionizing diverse and equitable hiring in America—to bring the success of the Career Fair to a 24/7 online environment (in response to the Covid-19 pandemic). Sharon is the author of COLORFULL: Competitive Strategies to Attract and Retain Top Talent of Color. You can follow Sharon on LinkedIn & Facebook and on Instagram & Twitter @boldlysharon.

## TDP 101: The Talent Development Pipeline experience

**Tracks: College/University**

**Assignments: #11 Involvement**

Join four current Genesys Works Talent Development Pipeline (TDP) members for a panel about the TDP experience. The GW TDP is a program designed for enthusiastic young professionals who want to launch a career in business technology. TDP members receive ongoing individualized support and access to unique skill-building experiences throughout college. The TDP application will open in April.



**Moderator: Julia Reich, College & Career Success Specialist, Genesys Works**

After graduating from Carleton College, where she was active in both ultimate Frisbee and the outdoor club, she began a teaching fellowship at an environmental semester school in northern Wisconsin. There, she taught students outdoor skills, facilitated after-school activities, and supervised student life. Following this experience, she served as a high school math tutor through an AmeriCorps program in Madison, WI. Most recently, she traveled through Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia, teaching precalculus, natural science, and physical education as she lived with and mentored 18 high school girls through a program called The Traveling School. She is excited to support Genesys Works young professionals through a year of learning and growth.



**Panelist: Taras Hutsal, Class of 2019 TDP Member**

Taras attends the University of Minnesota, studying Business and Marketing Education. He recently concluded an internship at Prime Therapeutics as a Security Engineering and Operations intern.



**Panelist: Hamda Osman, Class of 2019 TDP Member**

Hamda is currently going to Hamline University and is planning to study Economic - Financial and Political Science. She also has an internship at Hennepin County Resident and Real Estate Services as a Quality Assurance intern.

**Panelist: Sai Suchir Tyada, Class of 2019 TDP Member**

Sai Suchir Tyada is a junior at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. He is pursuing a degree in BS Computer Science and Mathematics. He is currently a member of the TDP19 class and has an internship position planned for Target for this coming summer. He enjoys programming, skiing, and eating/cooking.

**Panelist: Jennie Vang, Class of 2020 TDP Member**

Jennie is currently attending the Dougherty Family College to complete her generals before she transfers to a 4-year University, either at the University of St. Thomas or the University of Wisconsin - River Falls. She plans to major in Computer Science and is thinking of double major or minor in Business. She had an internship at Ecolab during her senior year of high school and was on the Ecolab Escalation Management Center (EMEC) team. She is very passionate about learning something new, an interest, or gaining a deeper knowledge of something she is currently learning about.

**Trust the Process****Tracks: All, College/University, Military, Career/Training****Assignments: #1 Motivation, #2 Informational Interview, #15 Degree Planning #20 Job Shadowing/Employer Visits**

Not everyone attends college already knowing their major. Fewer plan a career path. Join Shae as she shares her journey to becoming a dual professional, an attorney and Soldier in the Army National Guard.

**Speaker: Shae Seabrooks, Assistant City Attorney & Judge Advocate, City of St. Paul & Army National Guard**

Shae is a Minnesota licensed attorney. She works as a prosecutor at the Saint Paul City Attorney's Office and serves in the MN Army National guard as a judge advocate. She lives in Woodbury, MN with her spouse and two young kids.

**SESSION #3 // 12PM****Codeswitching, Keeping It Real - No Cap****Tracks: All****Assignments: #2 Informational Interview #7 Adulting**

Can I codeswitch and still keep it 100? What is codeswitching? Why would I want to do it? In this session, we will explore what codeswitching is, understand why people do it, and discuss ways to remain true to ourselves. Be comfortable showing up as your authentic self, but know how to gauge the school/workplace culture and how you can best fit in. This session will include activities and discussion around the topic of codeswitching, and you will walk away with some new tips to help you get ahead faster.

**Speaker: Maxine Hall-Brown, IT Manager, Medtronic**

Maxine has had a 20 year career in the fields of education and technology, and is currently fulfilling both of these passions while growing a global LearnIT program for Medtronic's End Users around the world. Originally from Detroit, she graduated from high school at the age of 16. She spent the summer playing basketball in Europe before starting college at Michigan Technological University where she graduated Cum Laude 4 years later. Her professional experience includes several years of teaching kindergarten through high school age students as well as corporate experience at IBM, Lifetouch Portraits, and Life Time Fitness. She is currently pursuing an MBA. Maxine lives

in Brooklyn Park, and is married to a local Pastor and has a blended family with 6 children and a puppy. In her free time (when the world is open), she enjoys watching her oldest two kids play basketball and traveling to new places.

## **First-Year Financial Aid**

### **Tracks: College/University**

### **Assignments: #12 Financial Aid**

Financial awards are arriving! What do they mean? What do you need to do? This session will provide you with guidance on your first year of financial aid to assist you with your college journey.



### **Speaker: Jesus Hernandez Mejia, Associate Dean of Financial Aid, Gustavus Adolphus College**

Jesus graduated from Worthington Community College, now MN West, and then transferred to and graduated from Minnesota State University, Mankato. He worked in the Financial Aid Office at MSU Mankato prior to accepting a position at Gustavus Adolphus College. Jesus has been a presenter for the MN Office of Higher Education for the last 10 years where his job responsibilities include meeting with parents and students to find ways to pay for college.

## **Life Abroad: Living & learning outside of the United States**

### **Tracks: All, College/University**

### **Assignments: #2 Informational Interview, #7 Adulting, #13 School Types**

The U.S. is big, but the world is huge. Why limit yourself to 50 states when you have 195 countries you can explore. These panelists have lived, studied, worked, and played across the globe. Learn about their experiences and find out how you can do the same.



### **Panelist: Maishon Holbrooks, ESL Teacher, Baebang, South Korea**

Maishon is a nomadic "Jack of all trades" that found a niche in teaching English and mentoring students abroad by sharing his culture and experiences in the classroom. He's a server, licensed insurance salesman, landscaper, and now international English Teacher gaining XP on the world's stage.



### **Panelist: Rachel Johnson, Higher Education Professional, United Arab Emirates**

Rachel is an educator and a landlord of rental properties. She formerly worked in the high school setting as a guidance counselor and is currently as an academic advisor in the college setting. Having traveled out of the U.S. for the first time at the age of 27, Rachel moved out of the country just 1-year later to the United Arab Emirates. She lived in Abu Dhabi and Dubai while working as a school counselor in both a petrol company school and an international school. Rachel lived, explored, worked and traveled to over 20 countries while living abroad.



### **Panelist: Tavanni Singleton, Expatriate, China**

TaVanni Singleton is an expat who spent the last 7 years living in both Thailand and China. Living abroad afforded her opportunity to save money, travel frequently and grow both professionally and personally. Although she has unexpectedly spent the last year with family home in the US due to COVID-19, she is making plans to leave again to Germany... or maybe Taiwan. Wherever she ends up, she is intent on sharing resources, advice and encouragement to others interested in making a life changing and rewarding move out of the country.

## Put Your Interests to Action

**Tracks: All, College/University, Career/Training**

**Assignments: #1 Motivation, #2 Informational Interview, #15 Degree Planning, #20 Job Shadowing/Employer Visits**

Find opportunities to experience what you think you love, so you can learn what you do love, and turn that love into a career. Explore all the different educational and work experiences you are given, that can help you find your passion and the ability to do good things.



### Speaker: Dee Dee DeMulling, Product Strategist, Target

Delight 'DeeDee' DeMulling is a product experience and strategy leader at Target. She has been working in technology for 20+ years and seen some important changes in the industry. She is a passionate advocate for products that improve people's lives, whether that is a implanted medical device or a barrier free online shopping experience.

## So You Think You Want a Career in Cyber Security?

**Tracks: All, Career/Training**

**Assignments: #2 Informational Interview, #15 Degree Planning, #20 Job Shadowing/Employer Visits**

What is a typical day in the life of a Cyber Security professional? What skills and traits make a good cyber security employee? What are the avenues in? Find the answers and more in this cyber security career panel.



### Panelist: Josiah Collins, Information Security Analyst 2, Vista Outdoor

The youngest of 6 brothers, Josiah spent a lot of my childhood trying to play catch up with his brothers who were always bigger and stronger than me. He found his equal footing in video games where those things didn't matter. At eight years old, he built his first computer and hasn't looked back since. Josiah entered the IT field in 2014 and IT Security in 2017 and has found his career passion. When he is not working, he enjoys camping, kayaking, playing guitar, and drinking too much coffee.



### Panelist: David Godwin, Senior InfoSec Engineer, Vista Outdoor

David has spent the past decade working with technology in various capacities to implement, support, and secure computer systems for businesses and individuals. His passion for learning new things has fit well with the IT (information technology) industry since these systems are constantly evolving and there is always something new to learn. When not working, David spends much of his free time bouncing between computer games, personal tech projects, and outdoor recreation.



### Panelist: Aimee Martin, Director, Information Security, Compliance, & PMO, Vista Outdoor

Aimee Martin leads the Information Security, Compliance, and Project Management (PMO) functions at Vista Outdoor. Aimee has over 15 years of experience in security and compliance, spanning multiple different industries and functions including internal and external IT audit, PCI compliance, risk management, and disaster recovery planning. In her current role at Vista Outdoor, Aimee is responsible for driving information security program maturity, various compliance programs (GDPR, PCI, SOX, ITAR) and leading IT acquisition and divestiture activities. Aimee holds the following certifications: CISA, CRISC, PMP. Outside of work, Aimee enjoys outdoor activities such as kayaking, snowshoeing, and biking, as well as cabin life and a good book.



## Started from Genesys Works & Now We're in a Tech Career

**Tracks: All, Career/Training**

**Assignments: #2 Informational Interview, #15 Degree Planning, #20 Job Shadowing/Employer Visits**

How do you go from a high school internship in tech to a full time career? These panelists know because that's what they did. Learn from their experience and find out if this path could work for you.



### Panelist: Davon Goodwin, Engineer, Target

Davon Goodwin is an engineer with Target's Hi-Tech team. He grew up in Saint Paul where he attended Highland Park Senior High School. He was a Genesys Works Class 4 student, which prepared him for his college career at Minnesota State University - Mankato. There, he received his BS in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Business Management, Communication Studies, and Recreation, Park, and Leisure Services.



### Panelist: Txuci Lee, Engineer, Target

Txuci is an engineer at Target and on the same team as Davon, Nancy, and Pa Na. He graduated from St. Cloud State University with an interdepartmental communication degree. Outside of work, he likes being active, playing sports, skating/snowboarding, and is an adrenaline junkie.



### Panelist: Pa Na Vang, Engineer, Target

Pa Na is a first generation Hmong American woman in her family and graduated from St. Cloud State University with a business major and a concentration in operations. She works at Target HQ as an engineer with the Hi-Tech team. They provide 1.5 technology support to Target team members. She is also the point of contact on her team for Target Welcome, which is a program that helps transition Target new hires to be comfortable with their technology and works closely with her cross function team to ensure new hires are successful on their first day.

## Turning Social Activism into a Profession

**Tracks: All, College/University, Career/Training**

**Assignments: #1 Motivation, #2 Informational Interview, #15 Degree Planning, #20 Job Shadowing/Employer Visits**

When I was a kid, I wanted to make anti-racism and social justice work a full-time career, but I was regularly told that I should choose a job with my wallet - not my heart - in mind. I now know that was bunk. Let me share my story with you about how I was able to turn my passion for community impact into a career.



### Speaker: Joshua Crosson, Executive Director, EdAllies

As executive director, Josh sets the direction for the organization's work to ensure that all Minnesota students, especially those most underserved, have access to a great education. He previously worked in D.C., where he transformed his passion for public policy into a fulfilling vocation, or, as his friends put it, made a living out of doing something "activist"—first at the Human Rights Campaign and later on Capitol Hill. At HRC, Josh spearheaded student outreach operations and expanded the organization's mission to incorporate LGBT students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities. He then spent four years writing legislation and advising his hometown congressman, Rep. Adam Smith (WA-9), on labor, health, budget, and tax issues. When he's not working for Minnesota's kids or spending time with his partner, Jon, and their dog, Jujubee, in their North Minneapolis home, Josh operates an adult LGBT sports league

that benefits local charities throughout the Twin Cities.

## **Youth Leadership & Activism**

**Tracks: All, College/University**

**Assignments: #4 Service/Volunteering, #7 Adulting #11 Involvement**

Students have the power to change the world, but how exactly does that get done? In Youth Leadership and Activism, Josibeth and Beatrice will discuss how the organization they work with, People for PSEO, creates a community of student leadership and activism. We will address how People for PSEO does so and how you can too!



### **Panelist: Josibeth Aguilera, Student Coalition Co-Chair, People for PSEO**

Josibeth Aguilera is one of the Chairs of the Student Coalition Committee, a branch of People for PSEO composed entirely of high school and university students. Josibeth grew up in Beltrami county. She is a senior at Bemidji High School, and currently enrolled as a full-time PSEO student at Bemidji State University. She was drawn to educational activism after seeing widespread discrepancies in treatment towards PSEO students. She believes that student involvement, especially allowing students to be creative and participate in critical discourse, is key to improving state policy. After graduating, she plans on pursuing a major in international relations, and, ultimately, a career in international law.



### **Panelist: Beatrice Handlin, Student Coalition Co-Chair & Secretary, People for PSEO**

Beatrice Handlin (she/her) is the Student Coalition Chair for People for PSEO. She is a current senior at White Bear Lake Area High School and a full-time PSEO student at the University of Minnesota, where she serves as the Events Director for the UMNTC PSEO Student Association. After graduation, she plans to pursue education studies with minors in English and Italian. She is passionate about creating communities for PSEO students across the state and increasing advanced educational opportunities in rural communities.