

Kara Knepp, ('15) - Mentee

In the fall of 2015, I was a graduating senior and realized the “real world” was quickly approaching. I had a lot of questions and uncertainties, and I was getting conflicting advice on all of it. I knew the basics, but I didn’t know how to set myself apart from other graduates in the job market. What does a kick-butt cover letter look like? What experience should be on my résumé and what should I leave off? Where do I even start to look for openings? Should I jump on the first opportunity I receive?

When Josh (Coordinator of the CUmentor program) invited students to sign-up for the CUmentor program, I saw it as another stress to add to the pile, but I agreed. A couple days later, Josh notified me with who my mentor was and I called her later that day (at the time, it was mostly to cross it off my to-do list, if I’m being honest).



I had done my homework and had a list of questions for her and we jumped right in. The first time I ever spoke to her, we talked for 90 minutes. She is/was absolutely fantastic and the conversations are so easy and just seem to flow naturally. Talking to her is an absolute breath of fresh air, especially in what was feeling like a very suffocating time of my life.

In the weeks following, we continued to communicate regularly on the phone, via email, and even face-to-face. Whenever I had a question or just needed advice, I immediately contacted her. A couple weeks later, I had begun the interview process with the Target Corporation, who my mentor had also worked for (this coincidence still blows my mind) and I called her again.

She was able to provide me with so much information on what the company would be looking for, how the process worked, and the main things I needed to be sure to capitalize on. I went through a process of six interviews and each time I focused on the key points that my mentor and I had spoken about.

At the end of the process, I was offered an incredible position with Target and accepted! I am starting a brand new chapter in my life and I can honestly say that my mentor was the start of it all. I am confident that without her guidance, I wouldn’t have made it as far as I did in the process. She reminded me of all the things I am good at and how my experience was fitting. She got me really excited about Human Resources and my future in it. Most importantly, she reminded me that confidence is key and that everything falls into place just as it is supposed to. If you love what you do, there’s no limit to what you will do for your field.

The CUmentor program has been my greatest help in entering my career and I honestly have no idea where I would be, had I not had an incredible career mentor. The program has taught me the importance to have mentors in my life to talk to, both personally and professionally, and the importance of building a network and utilizing that network to your advantage. I’m unbelievably excited for what the future has in store for me and to have someone mentoring me along the way!