EXPERIENCE FEEDBACK FORM

At Inspire Careers LLC, we strive to provide a completely positive experience for every individual that we serve. It is important that we know the quality of your experience and we would very much appreciate your feedback to help us continually fine-tune our service offerings and delivery to help us exceed our client's expectations.

As a participant in the Inspire Careers Student Professional Launch Program™, please tell me….

Overall, how did the program meet your expectations for service(s) you received?

[ ] Exceeded my expectations   [X] Met my expectations   [ ] Did not meet my expectations

Please explain:

I expected to have weekly meetings, touch up my resume, and construct my LinkedIn presence while practicing networking and interviews, and these are the experiences I received through this program. Altogether, I was able to find a job in a reasonable time frame for me, so my expectations are adequately met.

Why did you sign up to participate in this program originally and were your original expectations met?

I was not having much success in my initial job search despite what I thought was an impressive resume compared to those of other new grads. I was worrying about whether I was missing some small details in how to approach both the job search and interviewing processes. I signed up in hopes of learning about what makes candidates look the most appealing in the job market, and I wanted to see if there were any strategies that I should implement myself. I would say this program met those expectations by teaching me about the inner workings of LinkedIn, applicant tracking systems, and the importance of networking.

How do you feel the strategies you learned will help you as you continue in your career?

Primarily, I now plan on prioritizing making connections at my current job to grow my network. Although this may not pay off for whatever my next job will be, it could be useful further in the future if I want to return or if coworkers had moved elsewhere and had sway there. Reaching out outside of my network is also a strategy I want to try more on my next go around. Overall, though, I think I've made a good start with my current job, and building useful skills in the workplace should make future job searches a lot less troublesome. I think the current job market for entry level software engineers is quite tough, which exacerbates some of the problems. In the future, networking will be less awkward for me when I have appropriate experience, and having strategies for approaching this and other things like salary negotiation or interviewing will be much more powerful when I'm seeking better opportunities.

How did you feel your résumé compares with other résumés you have seen?

I thought my resume was simple and to the point, and overall, the density of good information was better than for many of my peers. I do wonder if having a more striking resume design would have helped at all. I saw a lot of people with fancier resumes that did look appealing. Still, I wasn't really applying to companies that would have appreciated that, and applicant tracking systems pretty much filter people out based on resume content, not appearance. So overall I felt better about my resume, but I feel as though maybe when going to career fairs, a pleasing resume design may have gotten more attention. It's hard to say, but these are just my thoughts.

What did you enjoy best about your experience (the weekly coaching sessions, new resume, Monday Motivational emails, LinkedIn work, Job Seeker Spotlight video)? Why? Please be specific.

The LinkedIn work and weekly coaching sessions were the best for me. Getting continual guidance was good to keep me on track. Also, I knew basically nothing of how LinkedIn functions prior to the program, so it was helpful to get its functions demystified and dress up my profile to look professional. I also enjoyed the interview prep, because even though I was apparently already pretty good at it, I received some good tips on avoiding negative connotations and using the STAR method. Learning that I was already a decent behavioral interviewer also allowed me to focus more of my time on the technical side of things, which I was slightly lacking in within this software job market. The Mastermind sessions were also very enjoyable, as I appreciated the sharing of challenges and strategies that others were taking.

Were there any parts of your experience in this program that you did not enjoy or believe could be improved?

I felt that it would have helped me more to have been provided with a template or outline for contacting and communicating during the networking process. This was absolutely the most difficult thing for me, and I would agonize over saying the right sequence of words to not come off the wrong way. Whenever I talked with you during the weekly meetings, you would come up with these great sentences that I thought would be amazing to utilize when reaching out and cold contacting folks on LinkedIn. But, when the time came for me to do the same thing, I would have immense trouble crafting a similar message, partly because I had forgotten the way you worded it, and partly because I was still socially anxious about sending anything that could potentially rub someone the wrong way. So, it's mostly a problem on my end, but I anticipate there's many like me that have the same hang ups and would benefit from a definitive template to follow for reaching out on LinkedIn. I think this would remove a lot of the uncertainty in the process, at least for common repeating scenarios such as reaching out for the first time.

Would you recommend this program to a friend or fellow jobseeker?   __Yes__ Why? Or Why not?

I think it would depend on what I knew of the individual's capabilities and aspirations. If they were lacking in some respect whether it be their resume, interviewing, online presence, etc., then I would absolutely recommend the program. Similarly, if they had lofty aspirations in a competitive job market, then I would also recommend the program then. The reason for this outlook is that I felt the program was good for polishing one's marketability in all aspects, so if you're missing something that's causing you to repeatedly have trouble, then it's a great boon. Most of all, I found the companionship and support to greatly decrease the stress of the job search process. This was important to me because I may have started settling for easier yet unsatisfactory opportunities back at the beginning of summer, which would have veered the trajectory of my career into an unwanted direction early on. With your support I was able to find confidence and stick to my original goals.

Please provide your overall feedback and thoughts about the program and partnership you received and the part it played in your successful job search (coaching, résumé, networking, offer negotiation, etc):

I quite enjoyed my time in the program, and the coaching and networking advice really helped me land an offer this time. I recognize that this program is a two-way street in which effort needs to be put in to get the most out of the guidance you offer. In the weeks where I struggled to get much done, I completely understand that the lack of progress was on me. So overall I was very happy with the program.

The weekly meetings were great for checkups and gauging progress. I also could get any questions answered quickly and holistically, which was much appreciated. On networking, consistently getting the push to just do it was good and necessary, despite my emotional reservations. I think that if I had not received this offer, I would at least be better at messaging and talking with folks out there for future opportunities. I was already slowly warming up to this process by the time I received an offer.

The advice on salary negotiations was great. Although I didn't really need it for my current job, I'm glad to know how to handle salary negotiations for the future.

Thanks for all your help!

Also, please provide your feedback about the digital courses you took in the Inspire Careers Career Coaching School:

Which courses did you take and please provide separate feedback on each:

Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback!

Name: _Noah James_____ Date:_11/11/24_____