Pallavi Pallerla

Mr. Speice

Independent Study Mentorship

30 March 2018

**Interview Assessment #5**

**Name of Professional:** Edna Prieto-Ballengee

**Profession/Title:** Researcher/Chemical Engineer

**Business/Company name:** Abbott

**Date of Interview:** 21 March 2018

My fifth interview was conducted with Dr. Edna Prieto-Ballengee, a Chemical Engineer who works with the New Platform and Technology Discovery group at Abbott Diagnostics. I was introduced to Dr. Ballengee through my mentor. My mentor once mentioned his wife was also a chemical engineer but in a different field compared to him. I was able to contact her through networking and had an opportunity to meet her. After talking to her during my interview, I got a small glance into the work she does and was able to tell how busy she is. I am extremely grateful for the time she had set aside for me and I had learned how you can work with others in a different career.

Due to the interview that I had with Dr. Ballengee, I was able to see her passion for chemical engineering. She told me how she got into chemical engineering from the beginning of her undergrad in Columbia. During this conversation topic, she told me a couple of courses (which I noted down) she took which are still helpful in her work today. After her undergrad, she told me how she completed her Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University. From there we went on to discuss her current work. Even though Dr. Ballengee works with a group of other professionals to develop a product she is the only chemical engineer in that group. This was very interesting to me because I researched numerous careers that are related to chemical engineering. Towards the end of my interview, Dr. Ballengee looked through my Original Work and gave me great feedback on how to improve it. I am planning to take her suggestions and edit my infographics before I make them publicly available. After that moment, I realized I still had an unanswered question. I showed Dr. Ballengee two different resume I had with me and asked for some constructive criticism. Her comments were quite helpful and allowed me to create a new resume that a potential chemical engineer should have.

After my interview, Dr. Ballengee gave me a small tour of the laboratory and her workspace at Abbott. I was quite surprised when I saw the laboratory. Since the beginning, I always through chemical engineers work in labs, but through my interviews, I noticed most of them do not actually work in a laboratory setting. By seeing the lab, I was able to clarify a doubt I had. By going on this tour, I also got the chance to see what it is like working as a chemical engineer. This interview is the one most impactful one out of the previous ones I went on. The conversation we had shown me that there really is no obstacle stopping you to find a career that you are passionate about. You can pursue a career in any direction you like and this interview emphasized to me how important it is to find a career I am passionate about so the impact I make will be more meaningful. As I progress in my journey, I believe this interview is one I will look back on to guide me.