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## **GAP YEAR 2017 MENTORSHIP FIELD TRIP: CELLULANT**

### **Introduction**

It was a bright cheerful morning when the Gap Year AKAD Mentees, accompanied by the Mentors had a field trip to visit Cellulant, a digital payments service provider, on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017 from 9:30 a.m to 2:00 p.m.

The theme was: **Positioning Yourself for Success**

The purpose of the field trip was to expose the mentees to the work environment. They needed to know what it took to be successful in the workplace, especially in a tech company.

The Cellulant Team included;

1. Wangeci Kambo – Group Learning and Development
2. Agnes Nyokabi – Human Resource Manager
3. Dr. Bright Gamelli – Group Head Cyber Security
4. Alex Kimani – Product Strategist
5. Mary Muiruri – Quality Assurance
6. Chebet Kirorey – Quality Assurance
7. Mary Waithira – Intern
8. Annabelle Musindi – Intern
9. Velma Kariuki – Intern

It was a fun-filled day full of motivation and learning. We had a Mannequin Challenge as an ice-breaker that set everyone at ease. Check out the video at Cellulant Facebook Page. Agnes, the HR Manager was a wonderful host and shared success tips on how to prepare for an interview. She emphasized that attitude and persistence were key when looking to hire employees. She informed the team about the exceptional culture in Cellulant where you are encouraged to challenge yourself and think outside the box to realize the company's goals. The Company's CEO reminded me of Steve Jobs, and you have to surpass expectations.



Mr. Bright Gamelli was as bright as his name. He set the room roaring in laughter as he joked around about how he ended up getting his Doctorate Degree at only 28 years of age. We were really impressed at how following your heart's desire and hard work can make you soar to

great heights. He won the Top 40 under 40 Award for 2017! He is a wealth of knowledge on Cyber Security and has excellent work ethic.

We were also inspired by Annabelle, an intern, who landed a place at the firm after meeting Agnes at a Customer Service Week where she demonstrated persistence and a great attitude. She now helps manage the Group's Brand and is doing a great job! This just goes to show that you should be the best version of yourself at all times, you never know who is watching!

Chebet Kirorey from Quality Assurance shared how she had applied and gone for the interview twice before she finally got accepted. She was determined to work for cellulant and demonstrated that giving up on your dream is not an option if you want to be successful.

## **Strengths**

The field trip was a success as the mentees got to understand the work environment and also networked with Cellulant employees. The fact that they had business cards was impressive and indicated that they had a bright future ahead. They demonstrated the 5 P's: Prior Preparation Prevents Poor Performance!

## **Weaknesses**

However, a few of the mentees shied away from asking questions and I felt like it was because Technology was not their main area of interest. I would recommend that individual interests be considered while going for field trips to various organizations in order



to maximize the impact on the mentees.

## **Summary**

The Gap Year Mentorship are a great idea and the fact that these young people do not get to just stay home and be prone to bad company and adopting bad habits as a result of idleness, but are exposed to mentorship,

networking events and field trips is fantastic! I would recommend this program to all the form four leavers.