

## Interview Assessment #7

**Name of Professional:** Christopher Lee

**Profession:** Government Affairs Director for Frisco Chamber of Commerce

**Date of Interview:** 10/27/2021

### Assessment:

This week I was glad I was able to reconnect with my mentor from last year Chris Lee. I had not spoken to Mr. Lee since the Austin trip last year, but I was able to see him last week at the Frisco Independent School District Legislative Leadership Committee. I was pleasantly surprised to see him at the committee meeting. We spoke briefly after the meeting concluded, and we had agreed to meet for coffee and catch up and share our plans for the next few months in regards to work and ISM work.

To start out our meeting we recapped the things we've been working on the last few months and just tried to catch each other up to speed. Mr. Lee mentioned how he just recently spent the last couple of days in Washington D.C. in meetings with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He showed me a few photos from the trip which included meetings with different representatives like Rep. Van Taylor, Senator Ted Cruz, and many others. He also just mentioned a lot of the sights and things he got to see in D.C. and it looked absolutely amazing. D.C. is such an amazing city and truly has a lot of opportunities. Next Mr. Lee and I talked about how I've been doing with college applications. I've had a lot of nervous feelings with the application process but Mr. Lee was very reassuring in that he thinks I have nothing to worry about and that I will get wherever I need to be. He also offered a piece of advice for deciding where to go which was "Go where the money is." He added that while it's important to go to a school that I am happy with, it's also important to go to a place with the most career opportunities and pathways.

Secondly, we discussed what I have been up to with ISM so far this year. I explained my idea for my original work and the different pathways I could take in completing it. He said that he was very impressed with the idea and that I could definitely lead to a good final product. He said that he had heard of the city of Kowloon here and there but never truly did a deep dive into the topic. I mentioned that for the original work portion of the idea I would like to do the basic setup and research of the city and then redesign it and create a brief community proposal like someone would if they were proposing a city/building to city management. He said that would be a good way to get started and that he can actually give me some examples to look over to get an idea of how to format it. He also said that he could get me in contact with Jason Cooley who is a public administration professor at the University of North Texas. He is also the Director of Innovations for the City of Frisco and would be a great resource for designing my project and knowing what to look for and what to focus on. We also discussed what potential ways I could showcase the work done for my original work in my final product and presentation and one idea he mentioned was creating a 3D split model. This would mean I could design a portion of a building from the reimaged

Kowloon city and then split it down the middle so that I have an outside and a cross-sectional view of the inside. I could also potentially 3D print a scaled-down version of the building and present it that way.

We also discussed the other idea I had earlier this year with Tracy Gamble. He said that while the idea was sound and could present some great questions and answers it would be a very large undertaking for a high school student especially with other classes and college applications. He did recommend however to keep the idea in my back pocket cause if the trends I want to investigate continue it would make a great setup and investigation questions for a master's thesis in college. He also showed me some models and charts he and the Frisco Chamber drew up recently regarding how businesses are recovering from Covid and recent policy changes are vaccinations and mask mandates. Overall I still would like to revisit the idea in the future but right now I just don't think the timing is right to take on such a heavy workload. He also mentioned that if I do return to the idea I already have the resources and connections to easily and quickly get the data and numbers I would need to investigate.

In conclusion, it was very nice to reconnect and catch up with Mr. Lee. A lot of the advice he gave me regarding college anxiety really helped put my mind at ease a little bit. I also appreciate that he is connecting me with Dr. Cooley. I would need to confirm but I believe that Mr. Lee mentioned the possibility of an upgraded version of the Austin trip we had last year but this year it would be to D.C. I am unsure of how that would work or when but if there is even a possibility I would be beyond excited and willing to travel to Washington.