

Interview Assessment #3

Name of Professional: Mike Duke

Profession/Title: Finance Associate

Business/Company Name: Lincoln Property Company

Date of Interview: 10/15/2020

My third interview was conducted with Mike Duke, a Finance Associate at Lincoln Property Company. Going into my interview with Mr. Duke I hoped to gain a greater understanding of what the earlier years of my career will be like. My interview with Mr. Duke gave me insight into the type of work I will be doing early in my career and what I should be considering heading into college and beyond.

The biggest takeaway from my interview with Mr. Duke was the type of work that I will be doing in the early stages of my career. Mr. Duke is the youngest of the professionals I have previously interviewed, so naturally he is the earliest in his career. This by no means means that Mr. Duke is inexperienced, quite the opposite. Mr. Duke being younger gave me the opportunity to examine the field of finance from a perspective that I was previously unaware of. Because my previous interviewees were older and further into their careers, they had more experienced positions that revolved around interpersonal work. For my previous interviewees, their work was heavily social. On the other hand, Mr. Duke's career is more finance oriented and less social. He still works with people often, just not as much as my previous interviewees. This is an important distinction because I want my career to be highly social. I want to be able to work closely with my contemporaries. Knowing that the early years of my career will be more focused on finance will give me a different mindset going into my first job. The sociality of my career will be more

focused on standing out and being an exemplary employee. As I move up the ladder I will still work my hardest, but I won't need to worry about standing out since I will already be working closely with my superiors. While it is slightly disappointing to discover that I won't have as much interaction as I initially expected, I am still passionate about finance and will enjoy my work. The initial balance between social and financial work will be something that I must consider when deciding what career I desire to pursue.

Another important takeaway from my interview with Mr. Duke is the importance of liking the company you work for. In Mr. Duke's words, you have to love the company you work for as well as what you are doing. This was incredibly interesting to me because I never considered that my dream job may not be at my dream company. I always assumed that as long as I loved my job I would be happy working anywhere. Reanalysing, it makes perfect sense why you would need to like your company. Calling back to my previous interview assessment, I discussed how your position is an extension to the field your company is in. You must be knowledgeable of the field your in as well as your title. Similarly, your job is one part of a larger company. Before, I thought of your role in a company and the company itself as being separated in a way. Speaking with Mr. Duke really opened my eyes to how silly this thought is. In the future, it may be in my best interest to research company morale before deciding whether or not to take a job offer. Since I want to work with lots of people, I want to work at a company that I love and has high employee morale.

I am extremely grateful that I had the opportunity to interview Mr. Duke and learn so much from his expertise. Mr. Duke was incredibly kind and helpful and gave me much to think about. Moving forward I hope to learn more about the early stages of finance careers and how I can best prepare myself for my future career.