



FREEDOM FORUM
NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

2019 -20

ANNUAL REPORT



LOCAL EVENTS

Opening Event: Big Hill

SEPTEMBER 4, 2019

As economic actors, patronage of local establishments demonstrates an organization's dedication and investment to its community. It is for this reason that the Freedom Forum is proud to have held its annual kick-off event at Bill Hill Grill, a well-regarded North Park eatery whose aesthetics harken back to the industrial age of Chicago.

This environment permitted an immensely successful event with roughly fifty confirmed reservations. Students continued to flow in as the event progressed with



almost all attendees discussing some form of program offered by the Freedom Forum—local events, domestic economic education opportunities, and the mentorship program are highlighted.

Of note were student's interests in meeting Mr. David Helwig alongside the multitude of tech-oriented transformational learning opportunities offered during the Freedom Forum's San Francisco Experience. Excitement and intrigue regarding upcoming Freedom Forum events is often generated by fellow students who had found immense value in their experience with the Freedom Forum.

This is indubitably helpful for the continued growth of the organization as increasing amounts of underclassmen are being familiarized with the Freedom Forum as a trusted liberty-focused group. Not too dissimilar from summer course offerings or visits to the library, the Freedom Forum's kickoff event at Big Hill has come to be expected by North Parkers who value the expansive (economic) education the Freedom Forum has to offer.

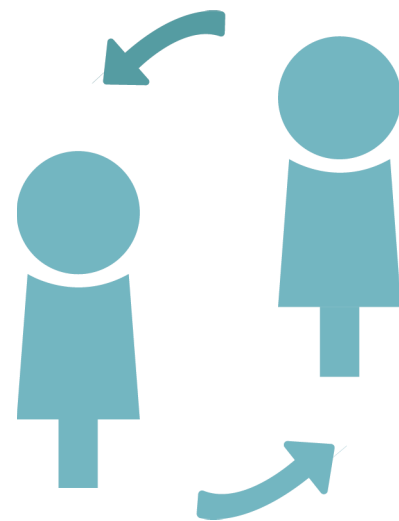
MENTORSHIP & THE ARTS

Second City Networking Brunch DECEMBER 2019

Mentorship and the Arts program provided ten high-achieving students with opportunities to network with professionals in their field of study, preparing students for life after college. Students were asked to meet with their mentors at least five times during the academic year, during which they could conduct mock interviews, resume review sessions, and set goals together to accomplish during the year. This opportunity provided students with an insight into the first Freedom Forum Fundamental "Freedom of choice in labor" where students could explore a desired field with the guidance of a working professional. Furthermore, the Freedom Forum emphasized relationship development through art focused events where mentors and mentees engaged in extensive discourse over a meal and cultural performance.

In December of 2019, the Mentorship and the Arts program invited mentors and mentees to The Second City Annual Holiday Improv Brunch to share meals and laughter. In March of 2020, the mentors and mentees were set to meet again for dinner and a show

at Broadway in Chicago. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 outbreak they were unable to meet in person. Since March, many of our mentees and mentors have made arrangements to meet virtually, continuing to grow their relationships past North Park University's academic year.



TRIPS & CONFERENCES



SEATTLE EXPERIENCE

OCTOBER 23-26, 2019

From October 23rd to 26th a team of 8 students and one faculty member enjoyed the Seattle Trip Experience provided by the Freedom Forum at NPU. The team was given exclusive tours and opportunities to conference with contacts from Amazon, Microsoft, and Root Sports. Half of group's time was spent on pre-planned events; the other half being spent on "free" time where participants had the opportunity to explore the city. This time

allowed the students to do as they please, whether that be enjoying local cuisine, admiring the Seattle skyline from the ferry, purchasing handmade goods at Pike's Place or adding to the gum wall. During this "free" time, participants were asked to create a video through which they would share their experiences and knowledge regarding different types of freedom (i.e. Choice in Labor, Enterprise, Thought & Interaction) throughout the city.



SEATTLE EXPERIENCE

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



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Through interviews at Amazon and Microsoft during a trip to Seattle through the Freedom Forum, I began to understand how freedom and ethics relate. While we all seek freedom in various aspects of our lives - whether economically, socially, in education, and more - our freedom must be sought in a way that is humanizing and dignifying to all people.

Lydia R. Vander Stelt



It was a very meaningful and helpful trip. I heard and learned about many great experiences from my predecessors and made many interesting friends. I'm glad that I could take such a trip. I not only got a lot of happiness from it, but also gained a lot of knowledge.

Yuzhen Han

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TRIPS & CONFERENCES

NEW YORK CITY: ATLAS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 6-9, 2019

From November 6-9th, 2019, six North Park students had the honor of attending the Atlas Network's Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner in New York City. Each year the Atlas Network hosts this conference, providing leading members of the community with a platform to share their global freedom initiatives, participate in meaningful discussion, and celebrate the ways in which freedom is being fought for around the world towards the betterment of society.



As part of the programming, student participants attended a two day forum, attending talks, discussions & presentations. During these two days, leaders in the freedom movement from around the world took the stage to share the ways in which they were helping global communities overcome harmful economic

regulations. Speakers presented on issues ranging from property ownership restrictions in the Philippines to the unjust regulation of entrepreneurship in India, and brilliantly showcased how the freedom movement continues to fight for the personal liberties of communities all around the world.

Lastly, the student participants attending the annual Freedom Dinner, the closing event of the conference. This dinner provided students an excellent opportunity to converse and network with members of the Atlas Network community.



ATLAS NETWORK LIBERTY CONFERENCE *STUDENT TESTIMONIALS*



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Throughout the conference, we were educated on legislation, situations, and obstacles hindering many people in numerous countries worldwide. The Liberty Forum provided the platform to not only educate on these issues but showcase their ground-breaking work to overcome or in some cases eradicate them completely.

Thomas Tayton



if it weren't for people like the one's I shook hands with at the Atlas Network – the world would be a much more uncomfortable place. The Freedom Forum has helped me understand the importance and long-term impact of free minds, free people and free markets.

Phillip Syren

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TRIPS & CONFERENCES

SAN FRANCISCO: SILICON VALLEY EXPERIENCE MARCH 5-10, 2020

As a result of COVID-19, the planning of the 2020 San Francisco experience had to be altered from its original intent (technologically driven). While the Freedom Forum had expected to tour Google and LinkedIn this previous season, safety regulations were instituted thereby terminating said possibility of visiting the campuses.

Although COVID-19 prevented the Freedom Forum from visiting these two Silicon Valley legends, the group did have the opportunity to visit the Helwig



Winery where students explored how regulations influence business. David Helwig offered excellent insight into how California regulations impact his winery in reference to product production and sales.

Students also explored their beliefs and conceptions regarding regulatory burdens through developed presentation activities. These activities helped consolidate participant experiences into well-structured works for reference during current and future educational endeavors.



The students also contributed to thoughtful consideration of how governments should be organized and developed original ways to govern the public. In light of the global pandemic, students drew attention to the roles of a government during crisis through interactive collaboration of thoughts and scenarios.

SILICON VALLEY EXPERIENCE

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



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My experience on the Freedom Forum trip was a tremendous learning and bonding experience. As I look back on the trip and the friends, I made I am beyond blessed that I was given the opportunity to go on the trip.

Niko Scharnowski



Having gone on the San Francisco trip last year, I was able to use my experience to guide my peers as a leader this year. This opportunity helped me develop an effective method for communicating with my peers, as well as managing and navigating unforeseen circumstances for the betterment of the group.

Deity W. Sullivan-Fonts

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