

1. Describe five businesses or non-profits that have been created in my field.

SecureShield Technologies is a cybersecurity startup specializing in developing advanced solutions to protect organizations from cyber threats. They provide advanced threat detection and prevention systems, encryption technologies, and network security solutions. Their mission is to safeguard sensitive data and ensure the integrity of digital infrastructures across various industries. CyberSafe Foundation is a non-profit organization devoted to promoting cybersecurity awareness and education. They offer training programs, workshops, and resources to individuals, businesses, and educational institutions to enhance their knowledge and understanding of cybersecurity risks.

DefenseNet Solutions is a cybersecurity consultancy firm concentrating in offering comprehensive risk assessment and mitigation services to government agencies and large corporations. They conduct thorough vulnerability assessments, develop tailored cybersecurity strategies, and assist with incident response and recovery. DefenseNet Solutions aims to strengthen critical infrastructures and help organizations proactively defend against evolving cyber threats. ThreatHunters Analytics is a startup that leverages artificial intelligence and machine learning to detect and analyze cyber threats in real-time. Their advanced analytics platform monitors network traffic, identifies anomalies, and correlates data from various sources to identify potential security breaches.

CyberJustice League is a non-profit organization that focuses on providing legal support and advocacy for victims of cybercrimes. They offer legal services, guidance, and resources to individuals and organizations affected by cyberattacks, online harassment, and data breaches. CyberJustice League works towards strengthening cyber laws, promoting digital privacy, and ensuring justice for victims of cybercrime.

2. What is your overall perspective on the entrepreneurship experience?

The entrepreneurship experience requires a lot of work in all areas of the venture. It doesn't just focus on the product or social mission; it includes going over design thinking, identifying opportunities and planning, ethics, identifying stakeholders, overcoming challenges, and marketing throughout the process to see if certain elements were missed and to make sure that no one is veering off into a different direction than the intended goal or vision of the business. It's a continuous working experience and even after the business is up and running, it still requires the entrepreneur to improve and maintain the original mission every day of the business functioning.

3. How did the entrepreneurship prepare or not prepare you to be a competitive candidate for vacant positions?

Entrepreneurship prepared me to be a competitive candidate for vacant positions with hands-on experience, problem-solving skills, leadership and initiative, and adaptability. Entrepreneurship provides firsthand experience in managing various aspects of a business. This practical experience equips me with a deep understanding of business dynamics and challenges requiring a holistic view of organizational operations. Running a business often involves navigating through complex challenges and finding creative solutions.

Entrepreneurs develop strong problem-solving skills, adaptability, and resilience, which are highly valued in today's dynamic job market. These skills enable me to approach complex problems with an entrepreneurial mindset and bringing fresh perspectives. As entrepreneurs, we are responsible for driving ventures and making critical decisions. This experience develops leadership qualities, such as taking initiative, assuming responsibility, and effectively managing teams. These leadership skills make me stand out as proactive and self-driven who can take charge and deliver results.

4. What suggestions do you have to improve the experience?

Suggestions to improve the entrepreneurial experience would be more time specifically in the design thinking stage to effectively think of ideas on how to help out the cybersecurity community obtain resources to be workforce ready. Having more time would allow me to talk to and reach out to more cybersecurity students in general to find out how to make it easier for them and find out exactly the issues they face in finding internships, part time and full time jobs. I originally created a survey to determine those needs/issues but only two people responded, and it is difficult for me as a student to be able to reach out to more students in the department because I don't have any way of contact.

5. What's next for you?

For me, it is to take a step back and figure out if entrepreneurship is right for me at this time in my life. My goals are to get more experience in the cybersecurity field and network with others in the field, this allows me and gives me room to find out other issues in the field. I plan on learning more skillsets and getting hands-on experience with IT work in which I will apply to but this time around I will apply to more companies to get a better chance at getting an internship position. I enjoyed learning all the different aspects and a little taste of what its like to be an entrepreneur, but it takes a dedicated individual that has more knowledge in the field to constantly work on their business to make their vision happen and to be able to keep their business afloat and be sustainable.