

## **Interview Assessment #1**

**Name of Professional:** Dawn Owens, PhD

**Profession/Title:** Director of Undergraduate Program: Information Technology and Systems

**Business/Company Name:** UT Dallas Naveen Jindal School of Management

**Date of Interview:** October 7, 2020

My very first interview was with Dawn Owens. I got to know her through the UT Dallas website as well as having conversations with her through email for some time. My goal for this interview was to provide Dr. Owens with information about myself, my passions, and potential plans for my Original Work for the year.

The first part of my interview with Dr. Owens was focused on my background. I mentioned that I am currently a high school senior at Independence High School with a passion for business and computer science. I also talked about my current role as the President of the Entrepreneurial Non-Profit Club (ENPC) as well as its two ongoing projects: Knights Attire and Knights Shield. As I wanted to keep the focus of the interview in the realm of ISM, I went ahead and shifted the focus of the interview back to ISM.

After providing Dr. Owens with some background information about myself, I presented my digital portfolio and resume to her through Microsoft Teams' screen sharing option - I also shared the link to my digital portfolio in the chat box. As Dr. Owens was skimming through my resume, she asked me about my passion for Management Information Systems (MIS) - or known as Information Technology and Systems at the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD). I discussed my two passions for computer science and business and how it led me to my interest in ITS. Some of the parts I mentioned that led to my interest in ITS were my experience with programming languages like Java and Python, leading teams in business-related competitions in Business Professionals of America and leading my team in ENPC. After I answered this question, the interview headed into a different direction - about my plans for my Original Work for the year.

After Dr. Owens had an understanding of how I became interested in ITS, she wanted to know more about what my plans were for ISM this year. Since I had completed the Original Work Proposal just days prior to this meeting, I decided to use that as the basis to her question. I responded by talking about how my plan is to develop my skill set and gain more insight into the realm of ITS by learning more about ITS and its inner workings. Also, I mentioned that I wanted to create a project that would allow me to consult a business about its strategy plans or IT-related processes in a presentation (similar to that of an actual strategy consultant or an IT consultant). As soon as I completely described the intent of my project, Dr. Owens completed taking notes on my idea and proposed her own suggestions.

As Dr. Owens listed some ideas in detail, I took note of the various ways in which she said that she could help with my project. First off, she said that she would be glad to work with me to teach me some of the skills that ITS students learn throughout their tenure at UTD. However, she told me that since it has been almost a full semester since classes started, I won't be able to work on projects that current ITS students are working on. Secondly, as she mentioned that I wouldn't be able to work with other students on their projects, she suggested that I can think of ways to enhance the process of how a library operates (she noticed that I have a lot of experience volunteering at multiple libraries' circulation desks). Next, Dr. Owens mentioned that she could help set me up with other UTD IT professors and students for interviews. Lastly, she mentioned that she had a few contacts at State Farm that could potentially allow me to work as an intern on their projects so that I could gain real-world experience and also to use that for my Original Work. After she provided me with these suggestions, I told her that I would be elated to work as an intern at State Farm. Also, I said that getting the opportunity to talk with UTD ITS professors and students would really help for my Interview Assessments in the future.

Finally, before our meeting concluded, I took 5 to 10 minutes going over the required portion of the interview: the ISM Mentorship Handbook. I talked to her about the number of times that we had to meet as well as the other requirements for mentors as stated by the handbook. Dr. Owens just had a question about how events will work this year. I told her we don't really know just yet because of the whole Covid-19 situation, so most likely we will do everything virtually, otherwise I will let her know. I also mentioned that I got accepted into UTD with a major of ITS recently and she congratulated me, which was nice because knowing that I might be one of future students is really comforting.

After talking with Dr. Owens, I felt really good about the interview because I was able to take the opportunity to talk about a potential internship at State Farm, which would be amazing because it would allow me to network with other professionals.