

Final Reflection

Going into the Student Engagement Fund, I had an idea as to what I wanted to do. When we started, we were supposed to do an mobile app that people can use to find immigrant-friendly health facilities. Although I do have a prior knowledge to app development, I was kind of worried, because it only goes to an extent. Thankfully, my mentor is really flexible and open to suggestions and change. Afterwards, since NIU had gone into the transition of partnering with Northwestern Medicine, I knew that there were some concerns, so I wanted to research how does the transition actually affect students. We thought that it would be hard, since the transition just happened, so it might be a little too early to research it. Afterwards, my mentor and I finally came up with the idea of studying the history of Health Services in NIU. I liked the idea, because it gave me a good foundation as to how Health Services came to be to what it is now. Looking back to this year, my research was something that I genuinely looked forward to. I enjoyed the things that I was learning and I liked that I was doing it on my own terms. With that being said, it wasn't until I was doing research and any of my other classes when I realized that I have improved as a researcher. I have participated in research projects and presented at URAD since my freshman year, so it was satisfying to see that doing research on topics that you genuinely like does help on the long run. In the beginning of the research, I definitely had questions as to how does my research help with my career. Since I am a business major doing a research project on history, it was weird at first to say what my research is. It wasn't until I learned that my case isn't a unique case, because there's a thing such as "interdisciplinary study." Learning in a Liberal Arts and Sciences field has helped me look at my course contents more differently. For instance, Even though I am in the College of Business, my specific field is STEM-related, because I am essentially studying technology. Whenever I am in lectures, I always find myself

asking the question “how” and “why,” I believe that it is one of the biggest questions the history majors ask. However, when it comes to history, there are certain questions that are asked that can’t be answered, because we genuinely don’t know. I also found myself to be a stronger writer than some of my peers, which is funny because in grade school, writing was some of my most weakest skills. I think it is partly because of me being interdisciplinary. One of my minors is in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, so even when writing for one of my classes, it’s a different style of writing that you have to get used to. It wasn’t until this year that I realized that there is research that is done within the business field. It made me appreciate what I was doing more, because in a way, I felt recognized for putting in so much effort and being genuinely happy about the end results. Even now when I talk about my research to someone in the COB, I get very excited talking about it, and they actually think that it’s interesting. They also like to hear that I am researching something outside of my major. I already applied for SEF for Fall 2019, because with this year, I was only able to get up to 1964. So hopefully I will be able to study what happens after 1964. As I am starting to learn more about that time period in general, it will be interesting to see how did students affect change on campus. Especially when learning that a women’s club was the reason why a gynecologist was brought onto campus in 1974, when you would think that it would be common sense to begin with. All in all, I have had a lot of fun with this project, and not only has it benefited me as a student, but it is something that I want to continue learning about.