



odo scholarship

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 22, 2020

Contact: Jordan Odo

President

(808) 384-0851

jordan@odoscholarship.org

Shidler Alumni, Business Community Provide Learning Opportunities for Students During Summer
College Students Participating in Virtual Summer Internship Program Received Hands-On Instruction and Developed Solutions to Community Issues Resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic

HONOLULU, Hawaii – Seventeen alumni of the Shidler College of Business answered the call in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic to provide Hawaii’s next generation of leaders an unforgettable and meaningful summer.

The alumni were a part of a contingent of mentors, advisors, and speakers who worked closely with 19 college students participating in the Jordan & Cara Odo Scholarship Foundation’s Virtual Summer Internship Program – a five-week online program designed to give students firsthand career experience during the pandemic.

“As a result of deteriorating economic conditions, we noticed that businesses were cancelling their summer internship programs, leaving many highly qualified students without opportunities this summer,” said Jordan Odo, the Foundation’s president and a 2017 graduate of the Executive MBA program. “The Virtual Summer Internship Program provided students with the practical experience they needed while developing them into young leaders who make an impact in their community.”

J. J. Bernardo, a rising junior, was one of six Shidler students who participated in the program. Bernardo decided to apply for the program due to the cancellation of his study abroad experience to Korea. “I was stuck at home, scrambling to find ways to pursue my professional development,” said Bernardo, a triple business major. “Being that this was a one-of-a-kind internship experience that was virtual, I applied knowing that I’d be able to benefit from it after having many plans postponed due to COVID-19.”

Leading up to the program, Capstone Director John Doyle, EMBA ‘17, rallied three members of his EMBA 20 cohort (Todd French, William Huyhn, and Thijs Peekstok) and a fellow member of the Shidler Alumni Association Board of Directors (Katarina Matayoshi) to serve alongside eight other mentors. The mentors devoted innumerable hours to the program, providing practical advice and instruction in the areas of finance, marketing, human resources, technology, and law while developing team leadership, research-market analysis, information synthesis, and presentation skills for the students’ community-based projects.

“It was so special working with my fellow EMBA 20 family again,” said Doyle. “We spent so much time in the trenches while at Shidler that we knew exactly how to extract peak performance from our interns and each other. It was magic.”

Shidler alumni also helped students sharpen their interviewing and job preparation skills and dropped into virtual meetings to speak with the students about different career paths and industries, leadership values, and community issues.

With the assistance of their supporting mentors, the students worked on proposals to solve various community issues related to COVID-19. “We spent countless hours speaking with community members and leaders, researching global perspectives, and cultivating our action plan,” said Stefani Sakamoto, a rising sophomore at the Shidler College of Business. Sakamoto and her team worked on an alternative solution to the 14-day quarantine to help with the recovery of Hawaii’s tourism industry. “As we drafted our business plan and presentation, we realized that our project has the potential to create a positive and sustainable impact on our community.”

The projects were also personal for some students. “Some of the interns had parents who had lost their jobs in the tourist industry,” said Doyle. “Despite the financial challenges and uncertainty this created at home, our students channeled their pain and poured it into their work, and we could not be prouder of them for what they were able to accomplish in service of others.”

The students presented their ideas on July 18th to a panel of business and government leaders, who provided real-time feedback and advice on the students’ projects. “I was truly inspired by all of their stories and the work all the students put into their projects,” said Jason Chang, President of The Queen’s Medical Center. Chang, who served as one of the judges, acknowledged that it’s an unprecedented time and applauded the students’ effort to help the community.

Due to the generous contributions of The Queen’s Health Systems, First Insurance Company of Hawaii, and American Savings Bank, all 19 students participating in the program will receive a scholarship to continue pursuing their dreams.

About the Jordan & Cara Odo Scholarship Foundation

The Jordan & Cara Odo Scholarship Foundation was founded in 2014 to help the next generation of leaders in the state of Hawaii. The Foundation is dedicated to developing a sustainable scholarship endowment, recognizing the contributions of young leaders through merit scholarships, and empowering future change makers who want to make Hawaii a better place. Together with the help of individual donors and business sponsors, the Foundation awards scholarships annually to talented and hardworking high school students throughout the state. To learn more, visit <https://www.odoscholarship.org>.

Leadership Team

Jordan Odo, EMBA '17
John Doyle, EMBA '17

Mentors

Todd French, EMBA '17
Thijs Peekstok, EMBA '17
William Huynh, EMBA '17
Kate Matayoshi, BBA

Recruiters

Valarie Cesar, BBA '88

Sonia Ibrahimkhail, MHRM '19
Jill Kagawa, MHRM '09
Ann Katekaru, BBA
Lori Kohara, MHRM '05
Kathy Oyadomari, BBA '16
Tahnee Towill, current EMBA 22
Kristine Uclaray, MHRM '15

Speakers

Marie Kumabe, Faculty Director of MHRM Program
Lynn Miyahara, MBA '10
Kristin Alm Kamakahi, MHRM '11
Brandie Ota, MHRM '15

Participating Students

Joan Martinez, rising sophomore
Stefani Sakamoto, rising sophomore
Jonah Tiwanak, rising senior
Marivic Agustin, rising senior
J.J. Bernardo, rising junior
Jasmine Lin-Wo, rising senior