

Please write your name and a paragraph summarizing the SHPE Conference/ your experiences

Dianna Sims - This was my first time attending the SHPE conference, and I was able to practice networking and selling myself and skills to companies. I was lucky enough to pre-screen with most of the companies I had hoped to speak with. The conference also forced me to apply to many companies quickly and effectively, and also taught me how to do my research on them to demonstrate my interest and preparedness. My next steps will be to finish applying to some companies and continue to find other companies. I also attended workshops during the conference, hosted by companies, which taught me valuable skills for resume updating, portfolio making, and other generally useful information.

Jocelyn Jimenez - Attending SHPE this year allowed me to attend educational sessions on different topics like leadership, portfolio advice, and covid team-health activities companies are doing. I was also able to get a couple pre-screenings approved and am currently in the application process of some for some of those companies.

Sabrina Pereira - Attending the virtual SHPE conference was a truly unique experience that really went to highlight how even in these Covid times, there are still ways to engage with people. It was so incredible to hear about the experiences of industry professionals and take their stories and advice with me. I was also able to get some experience interviewing for a company and am currently in the application process for a few companies as well.

Nabih Estefan - Attending SHPE this was super interesting to me because, unlike last year, I had more experience with, Career Fairs, and more things to talk about in my resume. This coupled with the pre-screenings helped me a lot because I was able to talk to more companies and get into more application processes for summer internships.

Daniel Arnott - Virtual SHPE this year was a very different experience from last year. The online format lent itself to allowing participants to expose themselves to more companies in the same amount of time. Personally, I gained a lot more confidence in talking about myself as well as made many great connections along the way. This was an important step in my journey to companies I am very interested in working at. At the time of writing this, I completed one interview and in the process of waiting to hear back for more.

Jamie Santiago - Attending SHPE this year was a fantastic professional opportunity. I was able to participate in several interviews and screenings and received a lot of great

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advice and insight into the different opportunities available to me. And to top it all off, I was able to secure an offer for summer employment!

Alex Butler - *Attending the 2020 SHPE National Convention this year was a unique experience from the 2019 SHPE National Convention. Due to it being entirely virtual, there were lots of outlets to maximize time with employers and get immediate feedback of your status with them. I was able to participate in many screenings & interviews for companies that previously seemed impossible for me to navigate into. The event as a whole grew my confidence to sell myself and abilities as an engineer, as well as my ability to convey what kind of engineer I hope to become. I'm very excited to grow my network and keep in contact with everyone I met at the conference!*

Moisés Sabido García - *Being that this was my first SHPE conference (and definitely not my last), I learned so much about the atmosphere at SHPE. I now realize how competitive it is at the conference and that recruiters like that fierceness. I want to be an engineer at a large auto manufacturer and through SHPE I was able to learn a lot about the different things that automotive recruiters are looking for. I was unable to secure any interview outside of the conference (expected) but definitely secured a great understanding of SHPE and the companies that participate there.*

Pris Morales - *Attending the SHPE national convention inspired me to look beyond the tumultuous time we are currently experiencing in the world. The centralized hub of opportunities, events, and connections reminded me that great opportunities do not come everyday -- but when they do, we must seize them with every chance we get. With this in mind, I had the chance to speak with representatives from multiple companies/graduate schools and I received valuable feedback that will serve me well for future screenings/applications. I was able to get a better insight into what different organizations value and I am now in the talks for summer research opportunities with various universities.*

Ever Gonzalez - *This was my first time attending a SHPE conference, so I wasn't quite sure what to expect. I wasn't particularly interested in using this as a networking or job searching event. I simply wanted to get more perspectives from hispanics in STEM. I feel like that's something that I've been missing in my experiences in industry. To that end, I leaned towards attending workshops, Q&As, and general talks hosted at the SHPE conference. It helped me understand why representation is so important in STEM. It qualitatively felt different for me to watch and listen to people who had a more similar background to me than what I'm used to in STEM. I'm planning on leveraging this experience by continuing to seek out people of different backgrounds in the STEM space, especially in wherever I find myself working or studying full-time after graduation.*

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Representation is a powerful thing, and I think that's likely true for many others coming into the STEM space from backgrounds with low representation. Going forward, I will be more critical of the spaces I'm in, and be sure to ask myself, "Who is not well represented here, and how might that be affecting them?"

Isabel Serrato - *This was my first SHPE conference, and I participated by talking with various companies at the career fair. By the end of the conference, I felt more confident in discussing my personal strengths with recruiters and presenting my accomplishments in the best light. The conference allowed me to talk to companies in the field I am interested in (utilities+power) that I otherwise might not have been able to contact, which was very helpful for finding connections. I had some great conversations, and am looking forward to attending again next year.*

Erika Serna - *I really enjoyed my time at SHPE. It helped me connect Latinx Oliners, feel supported as a Latinx student, and helped me connect with companies. I had 22 prescreening requests accepted I got to attend 7 of them (unfortunately the second day was mostly during SCOPE). I got a good sense of self out of SHPE.*