

Rachel Rosa, Hyde Park Venture Partners

*Hi everyone, my name is Rachel. I am a rising junior at the University of Illinois studying Information Systems and Operations Management and this summer I am interning with Hyde Park Venture Partners.*

I said this spiel more times than I can keep track of throughout the summer. The first time being the first day of IVCA bootcamp, as we went around the table and introduced ourselves. I listened intently, eager to meet all these people I was grateful to be in the same cohort as. Each Thursday for the 10 weeks of the internship we would meet up at different firms and introduce ourselves to inspirational leaders across the PE and VC spaces. The people I was able to meet through this internship- both in my cohort and through these Thursday company visits really stretched my mind and made this summer what it was. Luckily, I was able to find some of the most welcoming, intelligent, and inspiring people right where I worked, at Hyde Park Venture Partners (HPVP).

In addition to working alongside incredible people, HPVP made sure I spent my summer busy with fulfilling work. My boss, Jackie DiMonte, sat me down on the first day to discuss what I am interested in and really took me under her wing to ensure I was growing and striving towards my goals. There was never a time when I did not have something to work on or questioned if my work was meaningful. I had the opportunity to work on a wide variety of projects throughout the summer, and every day was different. I worked on sourcing new companies, meeting with entrepreneurs, and conducting research to determine if a specific company would be a good investment for HPVP. With such a wide variety of projects, I spent my days constantly learning.

If I had to pick a day to be the most interesting day of the summer, it would be the first. My first day included work on sourcing projects, attending meetings, going out to lunch, and attending an accelerator's office hours with Jackie. At the office hours we met with eight different companies. They were all vastly different and I found the passion that the entrepreneurs brought energizing. In reality, every day at HPVP is interesting and the first day just set the pace for the rest of the summer.

What surprised me most was the amount of trust Hyde Park Venture Partners placed in me from the very beginning. Even at the office hours Jackie and I went to on the first day, Jackie encouraged me to ask the entrepreneurs questions. In addition, the team trusts my research to inform their investment decisions. Throughout the summer I have been given the responsibility to spearhead projects and feel a strong sense of responsibility for my work. The team always gives me credit for the work I do and are not afraid to offer areas for improvement. One time I was even trusted with attending a demo day alone in order to speak with founders and source companies. Towards the end of the summer, I had the opportunity to join the team on a three-day work vacation in Michigan where I got to know the team better and even meet their families. Overall, I felt like a valued member of the team.

The best advice I could give to a 2020 IVCA Scholar would be to just learn absolutely as much as possible. This program is such an incredible opportunity and allows for a summer of unlimited growth potential. In these 10 weeks you will never stop learning or meeting incredible people and the best thing you can do for yourself is to ask a lot of questions and absorb as much as you can. I cannot thank IVCA and Hyde Park Venture Partners enough for allowing me to spend the summer with them. It has been everything I could ask for and more!