

OSU Design Network | Industry Connect 2020

Advice from Industry Professionals

Question: What advice would you give your younger self?

Moona: The advice I would give myself is, the grass is greener where you water it. I just learned this, 15 years later working, I just learned that the grass is greener where you water it. I wish I could tell my younger self everything's going to be OK. You know those moments where I didn't get that job interview or I bombed the job interview and I was so hard on myself and, I just, I can look back now and say, everything's going to be OK. There is a plan. The hardest part are the interviews I think, I thought I was a shoo in for the first position I interviewed with at Columbia, and I didn't get it. Maybe a year later, there was another position for a European ski designer and I didn't get it and I was like, oh my God, how am I not getting these interviews? Same thing happened at Nike. And then finally, two years later, a women's wear designer position came open at Columbia, and I was like, OK, you know, all those times that I interviewed have only made me a better interviewer, and I got the position. And so, I'm so glad that now that I didn't get the menswear position and I didn't get the ski position and that this was the right position for me. So, make the best of that and an opportunity to make yourself a better interviewer to gain more experience in another field, I mean, it really can only make you stronger and right for the next role.

Becca: I would say for future students that are coming into the industry, just keeping an open mind and taking the opportunities that come your way. It may not always be the exact opportunity that you thought you would start out as, but what I've learned over the years is you never know what you are going to learn or who you are going to meet in that opportunity to help propel you forward and take you into the next step of your career.

Molly: Keep reaching out and making connections. Don't be afraid to ask someone for maybe 10 minutes of their time over Zoom. It'll help you to stay motivated and get to learn what other jobs are out there, too, because I think a lot of the times as a student in merch management, for example, you might think that there's only buying out there, but



then you might talk to somebody in a planning role and realize that there's all these different sectors to it. So, just keep expanding, keep growing, keep reaching out to people and just keep adapting in this virtual environment.

Alex: One piece of advice, I would say, is don't wait for other people to recognize your strengths and your abilities and wait for them to promote you. You need to tell them and demonstrate. Here's what I want, here's how good I am, and here's why you want me in these roles and then go after those roles.

Molly: Knowing that change is a constant is the best way to keep an open mind and positive perspective.

Moona: I encourage you to really, you know, learn from that and realize, like, you know, if I was to invest in this company, what would that look like? If I was to invest in my own career here? What would that look like?

Alex: I would also say seek out a career that you ultimately want and take bold, necessary steps.

Molly: Just embrace all opportunities and don't be afraid to get out there.