



Iacocca Global Village for future leaders 2022 (Lehigh University)– Bethlehem, USA

Prashant

Faculty of Statistics – Ms. Data Science

06/2022 – 07/2022 (5 weeks program)



Lehigh University

Lehigh University (LU) is a private research university in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in the Lehigh Valley region of eastern Pennsylvania. Lehigh alumni and faculty include Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, Pulitzer Prize winners, members of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The global village provides an opportunity to work in cross-cultural teams on challenges faced by the organizations which help to build a network with colleagues, mentors, and friends from across the globe and develop a vision and plan for future goals.

Bethlehem, USA

Bethlehem is a city along the Lehigh River, split between both Northampton and Lehigh counties in the Lehigh Valley region of eastern Pennsylvania. There are four sections to Bethlehem: central Bethlehem, the south side, the east side, and the west side.

Bethlehem lies in the center of the Lehigh Valley. In 1747, Bethlehem was the first U.S. city to feature a decorated Christmas tree. On December 7, 1937, at a grand ceremony during the Great Depression, the city adopted the nickname "Christmas City USA" in a large ceremony.

Organisation

When we arrived at Newark airport, we were greeted by our mentor and taken to the dorms with the rest of the villagers. The university provided the food for the day, during which we engaged with other fellows, learned where everyone was from and introduced ourselves. The next day, we had our inaugural program, which consisted of each of us carrying our country flags in a parade up to the auditorium, where we were addressed by the university officials. The university provided housing, and we all lived together in the same building, with two people per room.



After speaking with so many people, my English communication skills have greatly improved. I also had the opportunity to acquire a few new words in other languages, such as French and Spanish.

Akademische Eindrücke

The curriculum was primarily focused on leadership development courses that will assist us in adapting to various working sectors and cultures. It was a more practical-based course, and we had access to all of the materials as well as books from the university library. On the first day, the university prepared a workshop to teach us how to connect to and use the institution's software and information. The professors had extensive industry expertise, which was evident in the workshops they conducted.

- Framing Leadership
- Reframing the problem
- Leadership Workshop reset outdoors
- Business Model canvas session
- Role of media workshop
- United Nations sustainable development goals
- Executive sessions, etc.

The courses gave me the opportunity to obtain practical knowledge by putting concepts into practice in real-world tasks. We discussed views and ideas on many challenges and came up with solutions while working with a variety of people and in a short amount of time. This allows us to be more appreciative of other people's points of view while also forcing us to think swiftly.



Soziale Integration

On the first day we had our opening gala where we organized in groups made of different people like staff, villagers, alumni's and we interacted over the lunch about ourself and what we do. We worked on in different project groups where each group was composed of different people from different backgrounds. We also had guide groups wherein we had our group debates related to latest issues in the world and also described about our future ambitions. These events helped us to interact with as many participants as possible and helped us to understand each others viewpoint on the different ideas presented.

We had an opportunity to visit the TV station in Bethlehem where we met different individuals and understood the role of media in our lives. There was a business crawl event which allowed us to visit local businesses and it provided us an opportunity to speak with them and understand how they run their businesses.

Ihre „Werbeaktion“ für die TU

Because I am an international student at TU Dortmund, many program participants were interested in hearing my perspective on the courses provided at our university. They were curious about if our universities offered English programs, whether they could handle the courses in a foreign nation, and so on. I educated them about the numerous English-language courses offered by our university, as well as the process through which they might apply to our university's courses. I also showed them on our websites how our university assists overseas students in adjusting to a new environment.



In addition, the country expo provided them with further knowledge about how the German economy has grown over time, which piqued their interest in applying for the courses offered by our universities.

Kultur

The cultural events were impressive, and I appreciated every minute of them. We celebrated the Fourth of July by preparing for the BBQ event and watching the fireworks display in the city at night. We also had cultural nights where we shared each country's traditional food, drinks, and dance/singing. It's exciting to see so many diverse people representing their own countries' cultural characteristics. We can also see parallels in how different cultures are represented in different countries.



We should endeavor to interact with and appreciate the cultures represented by the many participants. This contributes to a better understanding of the social, cultural, and professional distinctions between those countries.

Tipps und Vorschläge für zukünftige Studierende

- It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the entire world in one place, meet people from all over the world, and learn from them while working in project groups.
- Participate in as many events as you can, such as debates, concept presentations, sports nights, gym, swimming, and so on.
- Listen to others and communicate with them. Learn about their lives and the paths they took to achieve success. It will also inspire you.
- Collaborate with the university on a take-home project that you can continue to work on once you return to your home country.
- After the program, leave at least a 10-day gap in your regular work schedule so that you can go on a trip with your new friends.
- Enjoy every moment you spend on campus; it's a once-in-a-lifetime chance, so make the most of it.



Das Leben danach...

Life will not be the same after the program. Now I have friends all across the world and in different time zones, yet we still interact. The program has inspired me and shown me that I can provide more to the community than I presently do. I intend to put into action the thoughts and goals I shared with my program colleagues. The professional network I built during the program will also help me identify new approaches if I get stuck in the implementation phase. Also, we have reunions planned for the future months, which I am looking forward to.



Lehigh University, Bethlehem, USA

