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SPA Leadership

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#### Reflection Week 4

The discussion with Mr. Bernardino was not only entertaining but also enlightening. The experience he spoke of was so incredibly valuable to hear about. When I listen to people talk about their work experiences I am always so amazed how much people achieve as well as how much people's paths can change. Regarding Mr. Bernardino's experience, I often find that it is not typical to jump between the private and public sectors. Usually I hear of people entering one sector and usually building everything from there. The more exposed I get to the real working world, however, the more I am seeing that there is nothing stopping one from jumping between the two if that's what they want or if that's how it worked out.

While I didn't identify personally or specifically with Mr. Bernardino's background, I really appreciated his unrequited optimism and confidence in not only his own experience but in the experiences we as students will have in the future. As I slowly work to enter the job market through different channels, I am finding it much more difficult than I really ever anticipated. Yet, both Mr. Bernardino and Professor Wells exude this confidence that we will all figure it out and create our own paths which is very comforting.

Based on how Mr. Bernardino explained his experience, and in my own personal opinion, I believe that his high level executive position at a young age was a massive lesson for him as a leader. No one ever gets everything right on the first try, and to have that responsibility at a young age is probably very intimidating. However, I truly believe that you need to be thrown

into those kinds of positions and situations to grow as a leader, an employee, and as a person overall.