Business insight: CHaSS majors visit alums in Silicon Slopes' high tech industries

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Students, all wanting to learn how their humanities majors figure into success in the high-tech world, visited with executives from two of the largest businesses in Utah's Silicon Slope, HealthEquity and Visa. Arranged by CHaSS advising, the day-long field trip on Sept. 6, introduced the students to CHaSS alum Stephen Neeleman, M.D., founder of HealthEquity, as well as Jeff Hunsaker, VP of customer success for Visa. Over lunch, they networked with young alums representing other Silicon Slopes companies.

CHaSS majors visit HealthEquity in Lehi

About 10 CHaSS students grabbed an opportunity offered by the CHaSS advising office to visit with alumni who've achieved success in the highly competitive industry of technology. The day-long trip to Lehi illustrated to students the myriad of careers made possible by their humanities majors.

Session on best practices for human resources

CHaSS students learned best practices relating to human resources at HealthEquity, founded by CHaSS alumnus Stephen Neeleman, M.D., who also serves as the firm's vice chair (top of table at right). HealthEquity has been at the forefront of providing health savings accounts as a way to make insurance more affordable.

Utah's tech center: Silicon Slopes

The view from a window at Visa that shows the tremendous growth in Lehi, which with its huge influx of tech firms is nicknamed Utah's 'Silicon Slopes.'

Break for lunch

Oh, and another thing Lehi offers: many trendy restaurants, where students networked with other young alumni who work in Utah County.

A Silicon Slopes display about treal slopes

We were amazed at this wall at Visa representing ski resorts from around the country.