

Michelle does very skilled work in her everyday life, but it doesn't seem to necessarily be skilled design work. She's an administrator, which means her skills revolve mostly around leadership and organization instead of visual arts and design. One interesting thing I thought Michelle brought up was that she listed competency in all areas of work as a necessary skill; however, she also talked several times about being willing to step into a job which you feel unqualified for. In fact, I hear over and over again artists saying that they accepted a job that they were woefully underqualified for and just had to learn on their feet. Michelle listed quite a few skills that one would need to have to be successful in this field, some of my favorites being communication and positivity, integrity and trust, and problem solving abilities. These skills are clearly necessary in the corporate world, but they're really just universal qualities that everyone wants to work with. These qualities are the secrets to success in life, particularly positivity and integrity. Under qualification for a job often isn't a stumbling block in getting hired if you're just supportive, upbeat, and get your work done. Michelle even listed for us the tools for success: be reliable, be honest and trustworthy, listen, put people first, be a team player, learn how to learn, fake it till ya make it, and say yes.

Most of the theoretical ideas that Michelle is working with are, as she says, data driven. Michelle is in the business of efficiency, and she's constantly dealing with theories of internet traffic, and demographics, and marketing, and numbers, and statistics. She's the top of the pile, researching and determining the next step for everyone below her. She's constantly evaluating, be it products, people, or facts. These ideas are important, especially in the art world where money is only made by pleasing a certain demographic, but they're also very scientifically driven. Most artists aren't math whizzes or science nerds, so her main fixation in her job seems to fit better with STEM majors than the art kids.

My interests coincide probably less than 50% with Michelle's vocation. The entire time she was describing her job it made me feel trapped and stressed and I thought "wow, I'd hate my life if this were me." Much of that, however, probably had to do with the fact that she's working for a sports company and I am not a sports fan. Her job as far as a visual arts vocation does not seem enjoyable; her entire life is administrative duties with little to no creative responsibilities, what could be worse for an artist? On the other hand, my main vocational pursuit involves stage management, which is basically the non-creative, administrative role within performing arts, so I can see a fair amount of my future within Michelle's job. The difference is, I'm sure, that I am impassioned by theatre and bored by sports merchandise.

I will definitely need to gain many of these skills before I graduate, or at least refine the small skills I do have. I am a strong team player, due to my time in theatre, and I believe that will help me greatly in life. On the other hand, I am still in the process of learning self-motivation, which is highly necessary in the professional world, particularly the arts. Michelle talked about the necessity of being able to continue learning, even outside of school, and I believe that's one of my biggest goals in life: to be self-motivated enough to continue pursuing new areas of study on my own without outside accountability.