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April 6th, 2017

Independent Study and Mentorship

Evidence of Learning Assessment #6

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Subject: Speaking with a State Representative

Source(s):

Phone call with State Representative Pat Fallon

April 5th, 2017

2:30 pm

Analysis:

This week, I had the invaluable opportunity to share my final product, a public policy proposal designed to bring low-cost healthcare to rural Texas, with State Representative Pat Fallon. Representative Fallon represents Denton County in the state of Texas, and with the gracious help of my mentor Dr. Gerlacher, I was able to arrange a time to briefly explain my proposal and get some of his input and feedback on my ideas.

One of the main goals of the final product in ISM is to create something related to your field of study that will have an impact in the community. When I was in the process of brainstorming for the final product with Dr. Gerlacher, we first developed a list of healthcare

issues or problems in the state of Texas. After identifying the problem, I began the process of conducting research on the demographics and statistics of different counties in rural Texas and devising the best way to remedy the issue.

My call with Representative Fallon began with about three or four minutes of a brief summary of my overall product. I explained the problem of underserved rural Texas counties in terms of adequate pediatric healthcare, and then went on to explain my solution that utilized 800-square foot portable clinics and the new technology of telemedicine, to ultimately begin the process of bringing healthcare to these rural counties of Texas.

After proposing my ideas and the solution that I had developed, I asked Representative Fallon for any further questions he had or any comments that he had on my ideas. One thing that really stuck out to me was the fact that my initial idea of the Texas government providing full funding for the project would be unlikely. He said that while the design of the clinics and the five-year projected growth of the business had great potential to be successful in solving this healthcare issue, making this idea into a private company would be the best way to go in terms of practicality. After the first few years of operation and projected future success, the private owners could then go to the state of Texas and present the company's goals, profits and losses, and potential for statewide growth with the aid of the state government.

This insight from Representative Fallon was very useful in the process of developing my final proposal, and I am extremely grateful for the donation of his time in his busy schedule in helping me and my product for ISM. I will definitely use his advice and his comments to bring credibility and the aspect of real-world application to my proposal.