***Athletic Communication Department:***

The areas that I gained the most professional growth in would be gaining knowledge and insight of how much work and time it takes to be in the career field of Athletic Communication. Both Jon and Tyler work very hard every single game whether it be creating programs, talking to individuals, setting up equipment such as the live stream, stats, etc. In order to have a career in the field of Athletic Communication, it will take a lot of time and dedication but I know that I can succeed in anything that I set my mind to. Another area that I gained the most professional growth in would be demonstrating professionalism when it needs to be shown. Whenever I work, I show up in the appropriate clothing (whether it be dress clothes or SRU apparel) and always ask both Jon and Tyler if they need help setting up or need anything else from me before game time.

I have gained a few insights in the field of sport management from this job within the past 2 years. What I have gained was that through being in the field of Athletic Communication, there are a lot of responsibilities. Jon and Tyler are in charge of everyone at the table or in the press box during games. If there are problems with the scoreboard, or another individual is yelling at the coach, most of it is there responsibility to either fix the clock and take the individuals yelling at them about the clock and or escort that individual out of the playing area. Likewise, I have gained enough knowledge that specific career paths in the field of sport management may or may not be easy to obtain but are worth it if the time and effort is put into it. Also, I learned that it may be tough for myself to get a job in the Athletic Communication field since many individuals my age want to do this but I am ready for that challenge.

Based on my experiences, there are a couple of skills that I would have liked to develop in preparation for this experience. Before this experience, I was not familiar with working a live stream or commentating games or even writing for football or basketball. Also, I wasn't prepared to call for football because I didn't know that much about football. When I started this job, I wasn't sure if I would excel or be liked by my coworkers. After I have gained the knowledge and insight of calling football games, writing football and basketball games and working with equipment I can say that I have come a long way. I've gained so much experience in the past 2 years that I have worked more than I thought I would and I continue to learn every single day.

I can proudly say that this job has influenced my career goals. Some of the career goals I had for myself flip flopped because of the experience that I gained from working for the Athletic Communication Department. I would never see myself in Jon or Tyler's shoes someday if it weren't for them having the faith to hire me and further my knowledge within this field. I can now confidently say that this is the career path in which I want to take for myself. I can see myself working and succeeding in this field because of both Jon and Tyler.

Overall, my job experience for Jon and Tyler have exceeded my expectations and more. I am so grateful to have such amazing supervisors that critique me and help me as much as they do. I never thought that supervisors would make such a huge impact in how I completed the job but really, they do play a huge impact in how the work environment is and how the work is done.

***Pine Richland School District Athletic Department:***

The areas that I gained the most professional growth in is gaining more insight on the Athletic Director field and what to expect when put into certain situations. For example, Mr. Shoop had to deal with students’ parents a couple of times when I was at his office and some parents weren’t happy. Through this situation, I learned that some individuals will not like you and that is okay, as long as you do your job and complete your tasks because you can’t please everyone or have everyone like you. Another area that I gained the most professional growth in is my demonstration of professionalism within the workplace. I showed up every day to the practicum dressed professionally and always talked with the idea of being professional in the back of my mind.

I have gained a few insights in the field of sport management from this practicum. What I have gained was that through being an athletic director, there are a lot of personal responsibilities. For example, Mr. Shoop is in charge of specific grades of the school district. He is in charge of the whole school district from elementary school all the way up to high school students. Likewise, I have gained knowledge that specific career paths in the field of sport management may or may not come easy but are thoroughly worth it if the time and effort is put into it. Also, I learned that it may be tough for myself to get a job in the Athletic Director field because it is mainly a male dominated field.

Based on my experiences, there are a couple of skills that I would have liked to develop in preparation for this experience. Before this experience, I was a very laid back and soft- spoken individual when it had come to speaking my mind in certain situations. When I had started this practicum experience, I was not sure what to expect but I had gained so much self-confidence in myself and through the help of Mr. Shoop from his kind, thoughtful advice. A skill that I would have liked to develop in preparation for this experience would have been how to multi-task. As an athletic director, I learned that there is a lot of multi-tasking that occurs such as answering phone calls and emails at the same time or even talking to a parent and receiving a phone call.

This practicum, I can say, has influenced my career goals. A few career goals I had for myself did not include ever becoming an athletic director nor did I think that I would be able to succeed at becoming an Athletic Director. Now that I see how much time and effort is put into becoming an athletic director, I can say that this is a possible job and career path that I would like to pursue when I come out of college.

I can say, overall, that the practicum experience had met my personal expectations and by far have even succeeded them. I wasn’t sure how or what this practicum had in store for me but in the end I was thoroughly happy with the results. My personal expectation of this practicum was to learn more about myself and the work ethic that it would take to become an athletic director at the high school, maybe even collegiate level.