

CSS-REU Mini Conference at College of Charleston

My experience at the CSS-REU Mini Conference at the College of Charleston was amazing, very helpful and a great experience to add to my resume. We were joined there by students from Auburn University, NCSU, Puerto Rico, and UNC Charlotte to participate in the Mini Conference. For me that was my first mini conference in my life time where I had to present my research. This is how the conference went first one of the groups would get up and present their research, each student was giving two minutes to show their two side presentation. Then there would be a un-poster session for that group. So the presenters from that group would line up along the walls. While the other students got into groups of three and walk around to each of the presenter that just presented. I really enjoyed this opportunity to go around and speak to each student that had presented. So if we didn't hear everything the first time or we had questions we could ask them then. I typically ask questions like "Could you give me a brief overview of your research?" or something like "What contribution have you made so far to the research project?". This process was done for each of the groups that presented. Doing this conference I networked with numerous students from all of the different universities that were present. Most of the students there was using Unity 3D which is the same software that I am using for the research project. So I had plenty of questions for them and once they founded out I worked with Unity 3D they had plenty of questions for you as well. My Pros I really enjoyed the un-poster session because it gave me an opportunity to get out of my comfort zone and practice my elevator pitch. This conference was also a great opportunity for me to practice my public speaking skills. Another pro I would have to say about the conference is that hearing about the other students projects. Most of the projects were amazing; I can still remember some of the research projects. One person did their research projects of monitoring the ware about of a Seeing Eye dog for a blind person. I felt as if this project could change the world as far as helping blind persons. For my cons I would have liked if the conference was all day or multiple days because I feel as if some presenters rush through their presentation so I really didn't understand their presentation. If they had more time maybe they would go into great understanding of their research. It was also nice to tour the city of Charleston. But overall I would do this Mini-Conference again if I had the opportunity to do so.