

Sasakawa USA/USJETAA Grant Final Report: JETAA Chicago

Event: Career Development Workshop Report
Organizer: US-7 JET Alumni Association of Chicago
Date: Saturday, November 12, 2016, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Place: 1871 Startup Hub Chicago
Attendees: 25 participants (6 JETAA Volunteers)
Speakers:

- Jessica Paulsen, Pass with Flying Colors (Keynote)
- Olivia Cassidy, Upwardly Global, LinkedIn Best Practices
- Lindsay Whipp, Chicago Correspondent at the Financial Times

Narrative:

This year's Career Development Workshop was held at 1871 Chicago. The reason for this venue choice was to emphasize Chicago's foray into the startup world and to have access to technology we would not have at other locations (wi-fi, TVs to show presentations in the back of the room, cords to connect all kinds of devices). This would not have been possible without the funding we received from the Sasakawa/USJETAA Grant. We were also able to welcome incredible speakers who engaged the audience and told their Japan stories, which was the theme for the workshop this year because of the grant.

We started out with our keynote speaker, Jessica Paulsen who told us about the importance of telling your story and branding your image. As JETs, we often have a lot of choices about where we want to go based on our experience. JETs have skills that are applicable to a multitude of careers. Jessica was able to help JETs who attended think about the questions they may need to ask in order to find the story they want to tell. She also helped attendees think about how the path is not always straight to the end goal.

Next we had fellow JET alum Olivia Cassidy discuss LinkedIn. This was particularly helpful for a lot of attendees because they had profiles but maybe they didn't show off the best of their ability. She also showed JETs how to do things like make a URL that you can put on resumes and how to connect with people in your network.

Lastly for the speakers we had Lindsay Whipp. She gave us a great insight into the press industry in Japan and how Japan has played a role in her career. She started in Japan, went to Costa Rica, and then back to Japan. A lot of JETs often wonder about how to keep Japan in their career and she was able to answer those questions.

We then had a panel with JETs in different industries ranging from business to non-profit, to the arts. This gave the audience a chance to look at what they could do and connect with JETs who could help them do it. Each of them shared their different experiences when it came to applying skills they had gained in Japan to their positions. The networking aspect of the Career Development Workshop always proves strong as there is already a connection because of JET.

The Career Development Workshop was a success and we look forward to continuing to offer this level of quality at our workshops in the future.