I also have a greater appreciation for the fact that inclusion and diversity work doesn’t end in higher education. The vast majority of us will go on to the workforce after graduation, and that number is even higher in institutions with less developed academia pipelines. The identity and belonging support systems we’ve come to know don’t always exist beyond college, and teams working to address unconscious biases, micromessaging, inclusion, professional development, and authenticity are serving a vital role in making sure that folks of all backgrounds are happy to go to work – that they are just as valuable and capable as more privileged peers. We all deserve a life, including our professional life, free from white supremacy, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, ableism, and other intrusions of our daily goings on.

This summer also presented the opportunity to attend the Deloitte National Leadership Conference. Here, I worked alongside Deloitte consultants and other student delegates to explore opportunities at the firm and work on an actual case for a nonprofit client that helps deliver art to hospitalized children. The conference also includes the possibility of a return offer for a summer scholar internship in the practice you apply for. I’m proud to say that I was offered an internship in the Human Capital practice, where I will hopefully continue to learn about talent recruitment, management, and development while continuing to push for inclusion efforts wherever I go.