In business, doing is the best way to learn and experience can be one of the best teachers. The Business Connections Learning Community's Fall 2018 Conference was one such manner of sharpening your skill set. It served as a comprehensive introduction to the wide variety of invaluable skills one will learn throughout your business training at UConn.

As a freshman, this was the first college business event I attended, and I did not anticipate just how enriching it would be. After signing up for my preferred sessions online, my peers and I woke up early, donned our suits, and arrived at the School of Business with a mixture of nervousness and excitement.

The three sessions I attended were transformative for me both professionally and personally. My first session, titled "Professional Presence and Internship Success," provided me with a holistic understanding of how to present my best self, network effectively, and successfully apply for internships. My next session, "Perfecting the Interview," gave me the opportunity to sit one-on-one with a retired business executive for a mock interview. I received immensely helpful feedback from my "employer" and the experience strengthened my understanding of the anatomy of job interviews. Finally, I attended "So You Think You Know Microsoft Office?" which made clear
that I did not know Microsoft Office as well as I had thought. The session addressed this with a condensed lesson on many of Office’s various business-pertinent applications. I left the session feeling both surprise at realizing how much I do not know and appreciation for having learned. As the conference came to a close, my mind was beginning to open to the new and exciting possibilities that await me as a business student at UConn.

Attending the BCLC Fall Conference early on in freshman year had a powerful effect on my knowledge base, skill set, and general outlook on business. I feel empowered by what I learned through this event and have observed changes in how I carry myself in a business setting. It is in the best interest of every member of the BCLC to make the most of these chances to dive deeper into business and discover potential you didn’t know existed. An opportunity like this does not come around often; in taking it, you become supplemented in ways that you will only later understand.

Nick Willett