



Matt Lopez De Leon

2016 Scholarship Recipient



As a 2016 Economic Club Scholar from Columbia Heights Educational Campus, Matt Lopez took full advantage of the Economic Club Scholars to Leaders Programs, including the summer internship program. Upon graduating high school Matt continued his education over five hundred miles away at a small Liberal Arts school in Maine, Bates College, earning a bachelors degree in Latin American Studies with a concentration in general education and race identity.

Matt was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in the Columbia Heights neighborhood of Washington, D.C. He came to the United States at age eleven, with his grandmother, mother, and brother. In high school, his entire family reunited when his father came to the United States. Matt and his family were elated that he won the \$10,000 Economic Club scholarship to continue his education beyond high school. Luckily for Matt, the year he won the David M. Rubenstein scholarship, funding increased another \$10,000 and stretched over a four-year span instead of two years. Receiving this increased funding from the Economic Club, along with other scholarships, helped close his financial gap and made his college dream a reality.

As a scholar, Matt participated in the Urban Alliance/Economic Club Summer internship program in 2019 where he interned at Deloitte Consulting Firm. Matt served as a Human Capital Analyst Intern. After his internship, Matt kept in touch with the Human Resource Specialist at Deloitte, checking in every other month to network. Staying connected with the company led to a job offer following his college graduation. Matt was surprised and thrilled that his efforts at networking paid off in such a lucrative manner.

Prior to participating in the Club's Summer Internship Program, Matt did not know what his future career entailed. When asked what made him choose a consulting career path, he stated, "Being a part of the Economic Club Internship Program was one of the best things that could have happened. I networked with people who had been in the industry for more than 14 years. This job gives you longevity and flexibility and that stood out to me the most. The job also offers opportunities to travel, to build clientele, and to work in a reputable environment".

In his current role as a full-time Human Capital Analyst and training lead, Matt is responsible for developing training materials and facilitating workshops for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service. This past summer, Matt also served as a mentor to a 2021 Economic Club Scholar interning at the firm. He is proud to support the Club's initiatives and introduce a fellow Economic Club Scholar to the industry. Outside of working hours, Matt enjoys playing basketball, listening to music, and learning from podcasts.

***Matt's advice for scholars:** "Take your time. Your progress is different from everyone else's. It can be upsetting or overwhelming seeing other people win. Embrace your own process."*