



Zachary Jersky

2011 Scholarship Recipient



Zachary Jersky is a 2011 Economic Club Scholar from School Without Walls High School. During his adolescent years, Zachary became interested in everything related to finance. In high school, he was able to fuel his interest by watching the stock market and reading Financial Times daily. He learned so much that he was inspired to start an Economics Club at School Without Walls. The club met monthly to discuss finance (budgeting, saving, and investing). Due to David Rubenstein's philanthropic background and work in the finance industry, Zack was familiar with the name and discovered the David M. Rubenstein/Economic Club Scholarship. Earning this scholarship meant so much to him because David was one of his role models.

In addition, he took an Intro to Economics course at George Washington University while still in high school. He was particularly encouraged when his professor bragged that throughout his 30+ years teaching, he was one of the few students to earn a perfect score in the course. This aided in his decision to study economics while pursuing college.

Zachary moved to Pennsylvania to study Economics, with a finance and management concentration, at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. While on campus, he participated in community projects and became a peer advocate for his campus as he yearned to learn more about mental health. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania, Zachary worked for several equity hedge funds and hopes to continue exploring economics and finance over the next ten years. Zack currently serves as a Generalist Investment Analyst at Atika Capital Management in New York, an Equity Long/Short Hedge Fund with close to \$1 billion in assets under management.

In addition to his interest in learning more about finance, Zachary has a true passion for fitness, arts, and writing. He enjoys running, basketball, yoga, art galleries, Broadway plays, music, cooking, and writing – and New York is the perfect place for him to experience all these interests. Zach has even written for small textbook companies to expand the knowledge of students. His goal is to develop a career framework that allows him to “advance my main professional passions of investing and writing, while also positioning me to contribute to the betterment of my philanthropic interests of public school education and D.C. policy”.

Zachary's advice for scholars: "Take advantage of your school resources. Join the clubs and organizations to explore your interests and support with the college transition."