GLOBAL COMPETENCIES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY WORKPLACE

Keywords:
global mindset, trade policy, corporate social responsibility, global business, adaptability, abroad

Synopsis:
For its annual Distinguished Speakers Series in International Business during International Education Week, the Center for Global Business hosted a conversation with Smith alumni on global competencies for the 21st-century workplace. The panel discusses the importance of a global mindset in today's business environment and shares the personal and professional journeys that have inspired their interest in international affairs and global business. Other topics include how AI and technology will continue to change the workplace, how evolving trade policies have impacted the organizations of the respective panelists, and what students can do now to increase their global mindset.

Panel:
• Kristin Fallon, MBA '11, head of content & storytelling at GE Healthcare
• Larry Legates, MBA '04, senior global trade compliance manager at Danaher
• Tamil Sriram '06, MBA '11, director of the health services risk assurance practice at PwC
• Vincent Tran '10, international trade specialist & advisor at the U.S. Department of Commerce
• Moderated by Rebecca Bellinger, executive director of the Center for Global Business

Critical Thinking and Discussion Questions:
1. Digital technology is changing the way business is conducted. What skills do the panelists suggest you should develop as a student, and how do you think you can prepare for a hiring market that is not necessarily geographically limited?
2. What trade policy tools do policy makers use to enable their policy objectives, and why should a good business leader be knowledgeable about these tools?
3. In your understanding, what is corporate social responsibility (CRS)? Provide an example of CRS you have seen/heard of and discuss how it shows responsibility for stakeholders.
4. Each panelist mentions an event that has impacted their industry over the last year. Name a recent impactful event in your field of study and describe how it influenced the field.
5. Discuss a time you faced an academic or work-related obstacle that required you to use one of the global mindset policies in order to successfully navigate the issue.
6. Which of your global mindset competencies could use the most development? What actions can you take to develop it while in college?
7. Do you agree that technology is “the great equalizer”? Provide evidence to support your answer.

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