K to the Big Apple: Careers in Finance, Economics and Business  
June 7-10, 2017  
An Exploratory Career Trek in New York City

**Background:** An integral component of exploring potential careers is engaging with individuals who work in careers of interest and understanding the culture of their industries.

**Model:** Kalamazoo College is offering a career trek to New York City for current sophomores and juniors. This trip will provide a valuable learning experience for those students who are interested in exploring careers in business, finance and economics. A selected group of students will travel to New York City and participate in site visits, tours and conversations with K alumni influential in such sectors as trading/financial markets, private equity, commercial banking, corporate finance, wealth management, mergers and acquisitions, entrepreneurship, financial writing and investment banking. Students will gain insight into the complexities of these working environments and careers, develop skills in self-presentation and business etiquette, and cultivate professional relationships in the New York City area.

The program will arrange and pay for round-trip flights from Detroit to New York City, lodging and on-the-ground transportation in New York, and dinners. Students will cover their own breakfasts, lunches, and other costs, such as travel to/from the Detroit Airport and airport parking.

This program is generously funded by the parent of a K alumna as well as several alumni, and incorporates the time and talents of K alumni working in business, finance and economics in the New York City area.

**Expectations:** At all times, students should behave as positive representatives of Kalamazoo College and role models in helping to ensure that the K to the Big Apple experience will be replicated in the future.

Participants will prepare, reflect and give back. Pre-program, students will invest in their experience by conducting significant research about companies, industries and preparing questions. During the program, students will keep a log of their experiences. Post-program, students will synthesize and share what they learned with the K community in group presentations, classroom discussions, peer-to-peer mentoring, development and implementation of events with alumni and other professionals, as well as other ideas of their own. Participants will be expected to track a minimum of 20 hours on these activities following the K to the Big Apple Trek while on campus. Individually, students will complete detailed structured reflections about how the trip has impacted them – professionally and personally – and how it has shaped their vision for the years ahead.

Participants must attend a series of preparatory meetings during Common Time in April and May, with the first meeting on **Wednesday, April 26** from **11:05-11:45 a.m.**

**Selection Process:** This year’s K to the Big Apple is open to all sophomores and juniors, regardless of major. Applications (see instructions below) are due **Thursday, April 6**. Semi-finalists will be notified by **Friday, April 14**, and must be available for personal interviews the week of **April 17**. Finalists will be notified by **Friday, April 21** and must sign a release waiver and contract of commitment, with a financial penalty for cancellation, by noon, on **April 26**.

Email Valerie Miller with any questions.

**SEE APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS BELOW**
K to the Big Apple
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Deadline: Thursday, April 6, 11:45 p.m.

Applicants limited to: Sophomores and Juniors

Major: Any major, with an interest in exploring careers in finance, economics and business.

Steps to Apply:
1. Upload to K-Connect: a résumé and cover letter that meet the guidelines below.
2. Update your K-Connect profile to accurately reflect your interests.
3. Register for the event: “K to the Big Apple.” The system will ask you to select the résumé and cover letter that you would like included in your registration.

The one-page cover letter should be addressed to alumnus, Aaron Ries ’06 at:
Aaron Ries
Jefferies, LLC
1 Station Pl 3N
Stamford, CT, 06902

The cover letter should include the following:

1. A brief introduction: who you are and why you should be selected for this experience.
2. A middle section that addresses the following questions:
   • What do you hope to gain from this experience?
   • What experiences have you had to date that have prepared you to be an engaged participant in this experience?
   • What are your career plans/interests* and how might they be shaped by this experience?
   • How might you share this experience with other students upon your return to campus?
3. A closing that reconfirms your interest and includes the name of at least one Kalamazoo College professor who would confirm the merits of your candidacy.

The one-page résumé should include relevant information about your education, work and volunteer experiences, activities, skills, and awards. Résumés and cover letters will be reviewed for accuracy, formatting, and content—just as in the “real world,” a typo, sloppy formatting, or poor writing will remove your materials from consideration. You are strongly encouraged to have several others review your materials before submission.

For more information on how to format and write cover letters and résumés (and to see examples), make an appointment with a career coach by calling 269.337.7183, visit the CCPD during drop-in hours (Monday-Thursday, 1:30-4 PM), and/or check out the resources at http://reason.kzoo.edu/ccd/students/cover_letters/.

*interests should include one or more of the following: trading/financial markets, private equity, commercial banking, corporate finance, wealth management, mergers and acquisitions, entrepreneurship, financial writing, and/or investment banking