

Nicholas Romeo '04

Business Development Professional

Nick Romeo remembers struggling with reading and writing in first grade and that his teachers recommended to his parents that he attend Benchmark Summer Camp. Following a successful summer experience, his parents made the decision to enroll him in Benchmark for the school year. "I remember it being a huge change," Nick said. "It was a completely different environment from my previous school because we were so immersed in building [language arts] skills." Though Nick struggled for a little while with getting acquainted to the new environment, in hindsight, he is so thankful that his parents "did their research" and allowed him to gain the experiences he did while he was a student at Benchmark. "Benchmark was a challenging place," Nick recalls. "But that's the whole point—to push you, make you think critically, push you out of that comfort zone to work harder, be persistent, and learn from failure." But Nick believes it's not just on the shoulders of Benchmark to build that foundation—it has to start with the students themselves. "As much as Benchmark is invested in you, you have to be invested in Benchmark," he said. "Benchmark has a proven path of success if you are willing to put in the work and time."

After leaving Benchmark in 2004, Nick attended The Haverford School, where he says he believes "work ethic was leaps and bounds better than the other [Haverford] students." Furthermore, he said that he finally realized just how much the challenges he faced at Benchmark had shaped him and prepared him for

high school. "Benchmark did a really incredible job of allowing you to express yourself and what your challenges were and then encouraging you to come up with a plan to work through those challenges," Nick said. "The students who can recognize their weaknesses and then figure out how to turn those weaknesses into goals and strengths will be able to use that skill for the rest of their lives. It's something I apply to my day-to-day now, and a lesson I'll cherish forever."

After developing a passion for politics in high school, Nick went on to study political science at Gettysburg College and pursued a number of politically-focused internships before realizing that he wanted to enter the business world. Nick felt lucky to combine his new found interest in business with his love of politics when he stumbled upon Bloomberg Research, a subsidiary of Bloomberg L.P. that is dedicated to providing data, intelligence, and analysis to businesses that are directly impacted by the federal government. "It was the perfect match for me since I could keep up with politics and still be in the business world selling software to clients," Nick said.


Four years later, Nick is a Director of Business Development at Bloomberg Government and says he is very much enjoying his career path. His favorite aspects of the job include "interacting with and meeting new people" and "seeing my efforts pay off and problems being solved in real time." Also, he enjoys working in a collaborative environment—one that he said reminds him very much of his time at Benchmark. "At Bloomberg,



it's a very collaborative work environment where people share and learn from each other, including learning about each other's mistakes," Nick said. "It gives me a very familiar feeling to what I felt at Benchmark in the sense that everyone is constantly developing and redefining himself or herself—never being satisfied with the status quo."

Today, Nick continues to climb the corporate ladder and aim high in his professional endeavors. Though anyone who speaks with Nick would agree that he is confident and poised for future success, his path today is one that he was not sure he would ever have. "Without Benchmark, I don't think I would have had the skills to be successful at Haverford for high school, or Gettysburg for college, and then I probably wouldn't have come to DC and be working for Bloomberg," he said. "It's all been connected and it all goes back to where that foundation came from that really shaped me into who I am."

Nick has been staying busy with his career, checking out the food scene in DC, and enjoying being a new homeowner. But he never plans to stop dreaming and working towards his next goal. In fact, one day he would like to start his own company and be able to lead a group of people.

His advice to Benchmark students is: "Don't give up on yourself and ask for help when you need it! It's not easy, but if you are willing to put in the work and are not afraid to fail, you'll take what Benchmark has ingrained in you and you will achieve great things." 

“ Benchmark has a proven path of success if you are willing to put in the work and time. ”
—Nicholas Romeo '04
