

## Gathering

“Let’s start by saying Gathering is a conference where you can come with a lot of expectations and leave feeling inspired to be a part of a profession that’s excited to pass the torch to the next generation of planners.”

Gathering is so authentic & original and I loved that we collectively came up with the topics we wanted to talk about the most that weekend. My favorite topics were the “Closet Entrepreneur”, “Academics Collaborating with Practitioners”, and “Succession: Partnerships & Management”.

I was very fortunate to be able to attend the local leaders conference the day before Gathering. That’s where you were able to learn from other NexGen Chapters about what works best, but also share an update on what your chapter is doing for the NexGen community. It was also a great time to meet with other individuals from nearby areas and build some new friendships.

Whether you’re an extrovert or an introvert this conference does an awesome job by pushing you to become uncomfortable and vulnerable. Only when you are doing those two things can you truly expect to grow in life.

Another huge benefit about the conference was that all attendees were very open to share and grow without the competitive edge or obligation of impressing one another during our time together. The expectation that everyone had for one another was being 100% honest and open to listening to others opinions. Those feelings really allowed for conversations to knock down barriers and more importantly allowed for everyone to ask very important questions.

The biggest take away I had leaving Gathering this year was all the many new relationships I made with other NexGen. The feeling of knowing that there are several others across the country trying to make a difference is amazing, but also to know you have met a big group of them and can contact them about the profession is super beneficial. I talk to several friends in other professions (doctors, sales, teachers, researchers) and no other profession has this great of an opportunity to be a part of a community called “NexGen”.

I truly am honored to have been a scholarship recipient. I enjoyed my several new experiences, new thoughts, friendships, and want to thank Financial Planning Association & NexGen Leadership for the scholarship and putting on an amazing conference.

-Alexandria Cole