

# **Planning For Success After College:**

## **What Parents Need to Know About Campus Career Services**

NC State University Webcast  
January 19, 2009

**Carol Schroeder, M.Ed.**  
**C. Woody Catoe, Ed.D.**  
University Career Center

# Topics to be Discussed

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- Career Services and What We Do for Students
- Career Success
- Job Search Essentials – Basic Tools & Resources
- How To Deal with the Current Economy & Job Market
- What Parents Can Do to Help

# Career Center Services & Resources

## **Locations:**

University Career Center – Pullen Hall

CALS – Patterson Hall

College of Management – Nelson Hall

Design – Brooks Hall

Textiles – Textiles Building

# How We Serve Our Students

## Career Development: How the College Experience Connects to Careers

- Deciding on a major or exploring career options for majors
- Dealing with, “I don’t know what I want to do”
- Making intentional decisions about minors, electives and activities
- Resumes, letters, and Interview skills
- Internship and job search support - ePack
- Career fairs and Information sessions
- Evaluating options and offers
- Extensive web site guidance and resources

# Planning For Career Success

## The Three Boxes

- ACADEMICS
- PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- CAREER-RELATED EXPERIENCE

The Key is BALANCE

# Planning For Career Success

- Students should start early
- Those who wait until the senior year are often at a huge disadvantage!
- Everything your student does while in college has possible career implications.
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students should envision what they want their resumes to look like when they graduate.

# Top 5 Personal Characteristics Employers Look for in Job Candidates

1. Communication skills
2. Honesty/integrity
3. Interpersonal/ teamwork skills
4. Motivation/initiative
5. Strong work ethic

National Association of Colleges and Employers  
(NACE), “Employers Describe Perfect Job Candidate”  
January 10, 2005

# Other Qualities Sought By Employers

- Employers expect solid grades; however, good grades are only one piece of the puzzle!
- Employers want well-rounded candidates who demonstrate success beyond the classroom
- It often takes experience to get experience – college is the perfect time to gain career-related experience

# Career Success Essentials

- A+ Resume
- Strong interviewing skills
- Understand the Power of Personalization (and how to use it)
- Building networks
- Develop a “career story”
- Utilize Job/Internship Guide, Web Site and Career Center Counselors

# Indecision in Career Direction

Students are typically undecided on major/career because of one or more of the following...

- Unsure of their own interests due to limited experience
- Lack of knowledge of career options
- Too many choices... broad interests- and trying to make a job fit all of them!
- Stress about making the “wrong” decision
- Think they are the only one who doesn’t know what they want to do

# Decision-Making Resources

Career Assessments

Majors & Careers website

Information Interviews

Career-related courses

Career Counselors

# Career Services Goals

Maximizing Student Career Development to Increase:

- **Clarity**
- **Consciousness**
- **Competence**
- **Confidence**



# **CHALLENGING TIMES**

# Dealing with Today's Economy & Job Market

- Strong basic tools are essential
- Companies are still hiring, but can be selective
- Being pro-active rather than passive (“Act, don’t panic!”)
- Start early and allow for longer searches
- Competition means quality is important
- Less job security means being prepared to embrace change
- Start building “value” now and don’t stop after you begin your work

# Strategies for Challenging Markets

- Take care of the total package, not just your major
- Join STAT (Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow)
- Attend employer information sessions and career fairs
- Learn to deal with rejection
- Begin to think of yourself as a professional now!
- Try Job Shadowing and Informational Interviewing
- Get an internship (or two!)
- Develop a career story
- Utilize career services

## Top 10 Places Employers Find New Hires

1. Company's internship program
2. Company's co-op program
3. On-campus interviews
4. Employee referrals
5. Career/job fairs
6. Faculty contacts
7. Internet job postings (own company)
8. Job postings to career center
9. Student clubs/organizations
10. Internet job postings

Source: Job Outlook 2005  
National Association of Colleges & Employers

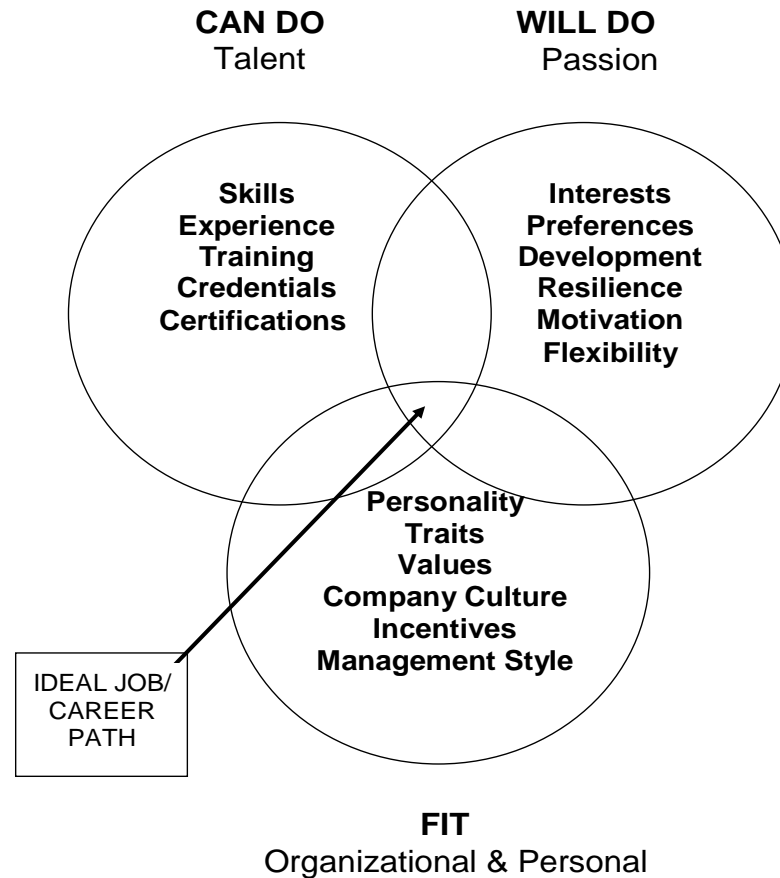


# **PARENTS' ROLES: Suggestions and Resources**

# What Can Parents Do To Help?

- Talk to your students! Ask them how courses are helping with career decisions.
- Realize this is a big decision that affects the other areas of their lives. It will need to be their decision, however.
- Encourage campus involvement. If not involved, what seems to be the barrier? Are they taking an active role in their job search?
- Encourage your student to get exposure to different career fields via internships/co-ops, part-time jobs, student organizations, informational interviews, etc.
- Encourage your student to come to the Career Center!
- Help your student become proactive, not reactive in his/her job search activities.

# IDEAL JOB / CAREER SPHERES



# How to Gain Experience

- Have resume critiqued by a career counselor
- Upload and publish resume in ePack for exposure to employers
- Search ePack for current internship/job opportunities
- Connect with the co-op office for co-op positions

# How to Gain Experience

- Attend Career Fairs to gain more info on internships and careers
- View additional experiential resources on the Career Center website
- Consider volunteer or leadership opportunities in addition to internships and co-ops
- Consult with Career Counselors for additional resources specific to student needs

# Additional Resources

## Co-op Office

300 Clark Hall \* 515-2300

## CALS Career Services

111 Patterson Hall \* 515-3249

## College of Management

2150 Nelson Hall

## Textiles Career Services

2348 Textiles \* 515-3780

# UNIVERSITY CAREER CENTER

2100 Pullen Hall • 919.515.2396

Hours: M-F 8:00-5:00

Drop-in Hours: M-F 11:00-2:00

[career\\_center@ncsu.edu](mailto:career_center@ncsu.edu)

FAQ's: at [www.ncsu.edu/career](http://www.ncsu.edu/career)