

News Items for Web Features - 2014

Career Fair helps Eagles get closer to future success

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Created By: April Nutter



Morehead State University students need to do more than just focus on academic goals and enjoy the social aspects of the college experience, they need to be thinking ahead. Once our Eagles graduate, another challenge lies ahead as they look to break into the current job market.

This is why MSU holds its fall and spring Career Fairs: to provide students unique opportunities that will help increase their chances for career success.

Face Time

Many students' idea of job hunting involves spending hours in front of a computer searching online for employment opportunities. At MSU's Career Fairs, you can connect with over 70 employers and graduate programs all under one roof while learning about full-time and part-time jobs, internships, co-ops and summer jobs.

According to Megan Boone, career counselor with MSU Career Services, it's getting the chance to actually meet employers in-person that may be that little something extra that separates you from the crowd.

"I think the main reason to attend the MSU Career Fair is the face-to-face contact with potential employers and graduate schools. It gives students an opportunity to get a leg up on the competition," Boone said. "The ones that make a positive first impression are remembered."

Prepared to Perform

While students can certainly just decide to show up to the Career Fair and check it out, the chances for a successful Career Fair experience will be very slim.

"If you just walk in the door and stumble in there, it's going to seem like chaos to you and it's not going to be a meaningful experience," Boone said.

Students should take the time to do a bit of preparation before they attend a Career Fair:

- Dress the part. Make sure you are dressed in business attire and potential employers will immediately take you more seriously. If you don't have a suit or business jacket (or simply can't afford one), feel free to visit the MSU Suit Bank in the MSU Career Center. If you find something that you like and that fits, you can have it free of charge.
- Bring copies of your resume and have an introduction prepared that will serve as what Boone calls your "30-second commercial."
- Research the companies and schools in attendance and be prepared with questions to ask them. A representative with Hitachi Automotive Systems Americas puts it well, "Do your homework on the companies that will be in attendance. Know what they do, what they make, where they're located, how long they've been in business, company history, etc. It shows initiative and genuine interest in the company you're handing your resume too."
- Taper expectations. Some students think they will walk into a Career Fair and walk out with a new job. While this can happen, it's often not the case. However, that doesn't mean you can't get a job interview, land an internship or do some networking that may prove crucial down the road. "It's as much who you know as what you know," Boone said.

Start Early

A common misconception about the MSU Career Fairs is that they are for Eagle seniors who are about to graduate. The fact is that students should be making an appearance these events long before they plan on donning their caps and gowns.

"The underclassmen need to be thinking about internships, they need to be making connections, they need to be speaking with people in the industries they're going in to," Boone said. "It's about gaining information and advice to differentiate yourself."

The MSU Fall Career Fair takes place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Tuesday, Oct. 7**, at the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC). MSU students and alumni from all majors are encouraged to attend and the event is free and open to the public.

Prior to the Career Fair, MSU Career Services is offering several workshops to give you more information on the Career Fair or improve your resume. To learn more, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/career.

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