Spring 2016
Volume 1, Issue 1

In This Issue

Featured Article: 1
More Than Just Resumes
From the Director 1
Employers @ NEIU 1
Did You Know…? 1
Employer Highlight 2
Student Profile 2

Career Development Center

More Than Just Resumes

While many students can identify the Career Development Center as the place they go for help with their resume, the CDC goes far beyond that in its services to students, alumni, faculty and the NEIU community. As stated in our mission:

“The Career Development Center provides resources for career preparation and advancement for the Northeastern Illinois University Community. The Career Development Center aims to guide individuals with all phases of their career development when transitioning from college to career. We engage and empower the community through career exploration and job preparation to be successful leaders in a global world.”

Career development is a growth process encompassing assessment of skills, interests, personality preferences, values, and identity and synthesizing how those pieces fit together in a whole person. Armed with those puzzle-pieces of self-knowledge, one can then explore how those pieces fit into the outside world of work. Our Career Advisors work individually, with groups, and in classrooms to teach the skills necessary for continued growth and success, from answering the question “Who do I want to be when I grow up?” to the job and internship search process, to negotiating compensation for a job offer.

As part of aiding in this growth, the Career Development Center also looks outward, building relationships with local, national, and international employers to promote Northeastern’s students and graduates, and gain access to opportunities for them.

From the Director:
Career Development is a Process

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Northeastern Illinois University Career Development Newsletter!

Career Development is a lifelong journey. Exploring majors, life options, and opportunities are activities which are a part of the process of career development. The Career Development Center at Northeastern Illinois University specializes in empowering individuals as they move through the cycle of their own career. The freshman year to the senior year onward to the graduate school years are stages of growth in one’s personal, academic, and career life.

1) Freshmen have the opportunity to assess their personality fit with a career choice.
2) Sophomores continue to explore and expand their career exploration into volunteer opportunities, service learning, and internships.
3) Juniors are engaged in major-related career opportunities.
4) Seniors are preparing for the work world through sharpening their employability skills, interviewing, developing a job search strategy or graduate school planning.

Career development is not always a straight-forward linear progression, and is unique to each individual. The key is that you continue to grow and the Career Development Center at NEIU is here to guide you along the process. Stop by the Center for resources or contact us for an appointment or workshop.

Employers Recruiting at NEIU during the 2015-2016 school year were:
- Aon Hewitt
- Walgreens
- The Jacobson Group
- PNC Bank
- Apple, Inc.
- Chunowitz, Teitelbaum, & Mandel, Ltd.
- Peace Corps
- Verizon
- Chicago Tribune
- Clarity Consulting, Inc.
- City of Chicago
- Chicago Public Media
- Steppenwolf Theatre Company
- Lawrence Hall Youth Services
- And many more!

Career Development Center
Building B, Suite 119
Monday—Wednesday 8:30am—7:00pm
Thursday—Friday 8:30am—4:30pm
(773) 442-4680
ocs@neiu.edu
www.neiu.edu/careerservices

Did You Know…?
Being ready for a career is about more than just having a resume. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, there are seven areas, or competencies that a new grad should have when embarking on their career:

- Critical Thinking/Problem Solving
- Oral/Written Communications
- Teamwork/Collaboration
- Information Technology Applications
- Leadership
- Professionalism/Work Ethic
- Career Management
Siera Garcia is a senior Finance major in the College of Business & Management. She has been working with the Career Development Center for three years, culminating in the completion of two internships through the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Grant Program. She first came to the CDC after noticing a sign on the door and discovering the Management 382 internship course. After first limiting her search to finance and accounting internships, she widened her efforts toward general “business oriented” options. Because of this, and working closely with Career Advisors, she was able to apply for and secure internships at both HealthData Technologies and the City of Evanston.

“I feel really lucky to have had the opportunity to work with both companies as part of my internship process. At HealthData Technologies I got to see first-hand what it’s like to be in sales working in a small office. I got a more comprehensive understanding of how much goes into running one’s own business and the mental discipline self-motivated sales positions require. Also I learned more about the type of job I wanted in my future, and how sometimes you need to have uncomfortable conversations with a boss you really like because you need to pursue the best opportunities for you…In working for the City of Evanston I am learning the challenges and benefits of working in a company with more social activity and even more management oversight… I am learning what different types of business have to offer in the form of growth, pay, benefits, mental health, and social culture.”

**Employer Spotlight—HealthData Technologies**

**HealthData Technologies** is one of the employers participating in the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program. They help doctors use technology to provide better care for their patients—such as speech recognition to dictate patient reports into electronic medical records. We sat down with Ed Yala, the CEO of HealthData, to talk about his experiences working with NEIU students and alumni.

**What has your experience been with NEIU students?**

I have been working with NEIU II, Co-Op student interns since 2012. I have enjoyed working with all of them. My first intern was an excellent example of the many qualities students from NEIU have. He was always punctual; he was able to work independently and was very efficient at completing the tasks. He would say “I’m done; what should I work on next?” I felt confident to assign him greater responsibilities, which he always delivered upon successfully.

**What are the qualifications that you most focus on when hiring interns or new grads? Are they different from the ones you consider when hiring more experienced employees?**

Because students seek internships to gain new skills, I don’t expect them to have specific qualifications—such as speech recognition to dictate patient reports into electronic medical records. I view my role not just as an employer but as a mentor as well. I want to learn about their goals after college and encourage them to ask questions. I realize that many students hold jobs while in school and stress that they put school first. I encourage them to take advantage of the many resources offered to them—especially the Career Development Center and the internship program. Ultimately, I hope they walk away with new skills, valuable insights about the business world and renewed confidence in their abilities.