

Career Connections

A Michigan Tech Career Center Newsletter

Spring 2007

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Produced by the University Career Center

MichiganTech

Career Development Class Off to a Great Start!

Submitted by Jeff Kangas, Career Advisor

The 2006-2007 school year marked the first time that the Career Center offered a class to students pertaining to the theme of *Career Development Foundations*. All indications are that the class has been very well received by students, and is off to a great start!

Not certain of what to expect in terms of number of students, the class was capped at a maximum of 25. Only fifteen students completed the requirements in the first semester. However, a more effective marketing campaign, more awareness of the class by academic advisors, and apparent word of mouth sharing among students caused the cap to be increased to thirty students for the spring semester. Currently 29 students are enrolled in the class.

Students have made the following remarks about the class. "This has been one of the most beneficial classes with the most practical real world knowledge while here at Tech," "As a senior, I wish I had taken this class earlier." And, "If not for this class, I probably would have just kept putting off creating a re-



sume, considering internships, going to Career Day...until graduation came and I didn't have a job. The class is a good reality check—a course that makes you think about things that you should be doing to prepare for life after school."

To get the course started, it was listed as a Special Topics class, UN2990. Beginning with the fall of 2007, the course number is changing. **It is now listed as UN2525 Career Development Foundations.** The course is offered to all graduate and undergraduate students with sophomore standing or higher. This one credit class has no prerequisites and can be used as a free elective. It meets at 4:05-4:55 p.m. on Tuesdays.

The course aims to help

Michigan Tech students develop the knowledge and skills that will lead to satisfying career and life accomplishments. In addition to learning the difference between getting a job and developing a career, students: investigate theories regarding career development; assess personal interests, values, and skills; explore occupational options; acquire knowledge of workplace issues; identify competencies sought by employers; and engage in job searching skills. Students become well-informed and equipped to deal with the rapidly changing world of work.

Questions? Contact Jim or Jeff at the Career Center at 487-2313 or by email at jaturnqu@mtu.edu or jakangas@mtu.edu.

Another Record-Breaking Winter Job Fair!!

Submitted by Adam Griffis, Office Assistant

The Career Center pulled off yet another successful, record-breaking Winter Job Fair this year. On February 20th more than 170 companies filled both the SDC Varsity Gym and the Gates Tennis Center as hopeful students, dressed to the nines, overcame their nerves and sold themselves to receptive recruiters.

Among the 173 companies registered for the job fair were several new faces. These included Fluor Corporation, Totani America, and Ulteig Engineers, Inc. Joining them were many old friends, including several of our venerated Career Center Partners; Ford, General Motors, Bechtel, Cat-

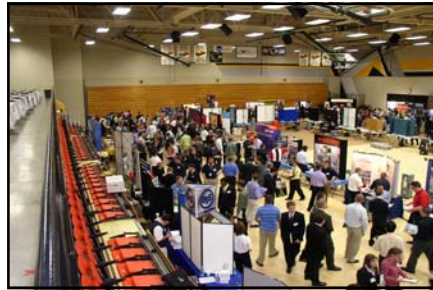
erpillar, and Archer Daniels Midland, just to name a few.

In the days following, 120 companies remained on campus to interview all the talented young candidates they met at the job fair. Many recruiters reported being very pleased and impressed with the skills and experience of the students they met.

An estimated 3,000 students attended the Winter Job Fair. New this year was an attempt to gather demographic information from attendees. As they entered the job fair, students were asked to swipe their Tech ID's to be entered for a chance to win one of five "goody bags." As a result, valu-

able information was gathered about the make-up of the attendees. Of the 866 students who swiped their ID, roughly 36% were seniors, 20% juniors, 21% sophomores, 16% freshmen, and the rest were graduate students and post-studies students. Major-wise, the top 3 in attendance (and willing to swipe their ID's) were Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Civil Engineering, with 29%, 12%, and 10%, respectively.

Career Day '07 is set for October 2nd. For more information, or to view the companies that had registered for the 2007 Winter Job Fair, please visit us on the Web at www.career.mtu.edu.



2005-06, a Successful Year for our Graduates

Submitted by Jim Turnquist, Director

2005-2006 has been a very good year for Michigan Tech graduates. 97% were placed in a full-time position relevant to their degree, accepted to graduate school, or enlisted in the military. This success stems from the quality of students, faculty and staff at MTU. The Career Center provides a support system which creates a balance between student career development and building relationships with employers.

76% of our graduates accepted professional positions in the Midwest, with 42% in the state of Michigan. Students' interest in employment opportunities on the west coast and the south has increased.

The consulting industry attracted 18% of Michigan Tech graduates followed by the automotive industry at about 10%. Industries that have recently showed an increase in hiring include the energy/utilities/minerals (8%), government (6%), and medical/biomedical (4%).

The job fairs continue to grow and attract companies and agencies from diverse industries. 2005-2006 showed a 40% increase compared to the previous year. Both students and employers feel that the job fairs are the preferred method for the job search process. Approximately 3000 students attended each job fair.

The 2005-2006 recruiting year was extremely busy with over 290 companies on campus. This generated about 700 interview schedules which averaged 7 interviews per student.

The Internet continues to infiltrate the job search process. The Career Center uses a software package called "eRecruiting" to manage employers' interview schedules, job postings, and make available students' resumes to employers. Over 24,000 resumes were reviewed by potential employers during the 2005-2006 academic year.

All indicators show that 2006-2007 will be busier than 2005-2006. The "baby boomers" are retiring, leaving a huge gap that employers are trying to fill. Michigan Tech is committed to assisting employers with this challenge. The Career Center will continue to prepare students for a successful career transition.

Graduate School and Career Center Partner on Cooperative Education

Submitted by Gail Beausoleil, Associate Director

The Career Center has recently expanded its cooperative education offerings to include graduate students. Previously, the graduate co-op program was housed within the graduate school; however, employers, faculty and students are finding that administering the program within the Career Center has been extremely beneficial.

Graduate School Dean Jacqueline Huntoon is enthusiastic about the new collaboration. According to Dean Huntoon, "Michigan Tech is a bit unusual in that our graduate students, including the Ph.D. students, are extremely well-prepared for positions in industry. Getting co-op or internship experience prior to graduation helps students and industry partners learn more about each other. Now that the Graduate School and the Career Center are working together students are being offered many different opportunities, and faculty on campus are learning more about the corporations interested in our students. The Career Center's experience and connections with industry are truly invaluable to the university."

"Housing the graduate co-op program within the Career Center also

provides important program consistency, as the requirements and registration processes have been redesigned to be similar to the undergraduate program," explains Gail Beausoleil, Career Center Associate Director and coordinator of the University Co-op Program. Interested graduate students apply for available positions, and if offered a co-op opportunity, the student registers with the Co-op Office in the Career Center with advisor's permission. Graduate students earn up to 6 academic credits for each semester or summer of co-op, and students are considered to be full-time status while on assignment. Students and employers complete evaluations during and at the end of the assignment, and students write a technical report or give a formal presentation about their experience to receive a grade.

Beausoleil encourages faculty and staff to contact the Career Center to learn more about the co-op program. "Co-op offers employers a convenient and cost-effective approach to hiring short term help. In many cases, employers will be extremely impressed by the quality of education Michigan Tech co-op students display and, in turn, expand



the company's relationships and investment within the university."

Graduate co-op employers have included:

- Broadcom Corporation
- Cadence Design Systems
- Caterpillar
- Cummins
- Dow Chemical
- GE Energy
- Hutchinson Technology
- Mayo Clinic
- Mindware Engineering
- NSF International
- Polaris Industries
- Skanska USA Building
- Wolverine Power Cooperative
- Zimmer

For more about the co-op program, please contact Gail Beausoleil at gbeausol@mtu.edu or visit <http://www.career.mtu.edu/coop.php>

Technology updates....

Submitted by Matt McCormick, Systems Administrator

In January, the Career Center released a new version of our website (<http://www.career.mtu.edu>). It features additional RSS feeds, current news and updated content, a new scholarship page, and a page to address diversity issues in the career search. The co-op section was reorganized as well.

We have also made the fall Career Day and Winter Job Fair Guidebooks available for download prior to the fairs to help students better research the companies. We published a brief video for download covering the winter fair and hope to do the same in the fall.

eRecruiting, MyPlan, and InterviewStream are still available for students to use. Beginning in January 2007, we started using eRecruiting to allow students to sign up for mock interviews. This was to simulate the actual signup process for interviewing with companies.

The local job postings site is still a big hit among students (<http://www.career.mtu.edu/students/jobpostings/>). This allows Michigan Tech departments, local businesses, and community members to hire students for part-time and summer jobs.

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Upcoming Fall Events 2007

- Senior Meeting.....September 5
- Resume Writing Tips.....September 11
- MUB Resume Blitz.....September 12-13; 17-18
- Resume Critiques.....September 19-21
- Co-op Seminar.....September 18
- Interviewing Success.....September 19
- Mock Interview Week.....September 24-28
- Job Search Strategies.....September 26
- Career Day.....October 2
- Plant Trip/Benefits.....October 17
- Etiquette Dinner.....October 24

Michigan Tech Career Center Partners

Optimizing company recruiting efforts by preparing students for the workforce.



H&T Battery Components



United States Steel



WPS Resources Corporation



For more information about the Career Center Partners Program contact Tina Giachino at tgiachin@mtu.edu (906) 487-2313 or Steve Stackhouse at sstackho@mtu.edu (906) 487-2228.