

JOHN P. FAHEY CAREER CENTER

VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 1

FALL 2016



Omaha Icons Join Employer Sponsors Program

By Jeremy Fisher



Three nationally recognized Omaha organizations – Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Boys Town, and Boys Town National Research Hospital – recently joined the John P. Fahey Career Center's employer sponsorship program as gold level partners.

The addition of the new sponsors is part of the Career Center's goal to expand and diversify Creighton's career-related partnerships. After strategically researching and identifying employers in Omaha and nationally based on student career interest and demographics, the Career Center has focused on increasing the number of employment opportunities within health-care, non-profit, and scientific organizations.

These health care entities will join 18 other organizations as

sponsors. Established in 2008, the employer sponsorship program was developed for organizations seeking to maximize their college recruiting efforts and presence on campus and to increase their exposure to Creighton University students, alumni, faculty, and staff. The program provides employers opportunities to partner with the Career Center to connect students and alumni with a broad range of career services and recruiting opportunities.

In the past, employer sponsors have presented on special topics, served on panels, been featured at Career Fairs, and conducted mock interviews, among other activities.

We are very excited to partner with these organizations because

of the numerous internship, career, and research opportunities that they provide specifically for our College of Arts and Sciences and College of Nursing students, as well as opportunities within various business areas.

Sharing in the excitement for this new stage of collaboration, Maggie Davis, Talent Acquisition Manager at Children's Hospital & Medical Center, stated "I have recruited at Creighton and other universities around the area for many years and I love Creighton students – they are very well-prepared, hard-working, and are successful hires for our organization."

For a full list of our employer sponsor partners, please visit www.creighton.edu/careercenter/employersponsors.

OUR MISSION:

The John P. Fahey Career Center, as part of the Creighton EDGE, is committed to assisting students and alumni in exploring, developing, and implementing career goals that reflect their unique roles in the world of work and their commitment to a life of service to others.

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HOURS OF OPERATION:

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri: 8:00AM - 4:30PM

DROP-IN HOURS

Mon-Fri: 1:30PM - 4:30PM

*when classes are in session

Appointments Recommended

402.280.2722

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In an effort to continue to provide services that exemplify excellence in the field, the Career Center has identified five main themes that reflect the core of the college career development field. Inspired by and adapted from the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Professional Competencies for College and University Career Services Practitioners, each article utilizes the icons below to identify its corresponding theme.

-By Rachel Gibson

ASSESSMENTS



CONNECTING



COUNSELING



EVENTS



OUTREACH



Use these icons to identify how the John P. Fahey Career Center is aligning with national standards.

Letter from the Director

During the Career Center staff retreat this past summer at the Creighton University Retreat Center, I outlined my vision as the new Director in addition to participating in some fun team-building activities, goal planning, values-based exercises, and mission-focused discussions. I think our entire staff would agree that we feel blessed to work at Creighton University in a profession that inspires hope and empowerment to our students as they discern their roles in the world of work and their commitment to a life of service to others.

My goal for the John P. Fahey Career Center is to be the best Career Center in our region and nationally based on student and employer experiences. We aspire to achieve a 100% success rate for all our undergraduates' career outcomes within six months post-graduation (Creighton's success rate was 98% last year). Increasing employer outreach nationally and advancing the quality of internships and career opportunities for our nationally diverse student body is a high priority. We strive to collaborate more closely with the College of Arts and Sciences to integrate more career development programming with an aim to strengthen our students' overall preparation for life after college, much like we have done with the Heider College of Business through the Career Portfolio Program and other student organization and academic partnerships.

Exciting new initiatives in the Career Center this fall included implementing ways to improve the student and employer visitor experience in our office environment. This includes offering complimentary healthy snacks for students through our new "refueling station." We also ordered new Career Center branded give-a-way items for employers who recruit at Creighton. Nicole Methven (B.A. in Journalism '16) is a new employee to the Career Center staff this year and has done a great job of engaging students and employers through our social media accounts (Twitter, Snapchat, and Facebook) and has significantly increased our follower metrics and activity.

As we look into the next semester, it is both an honor and privilege to continuously improve our services for students, faculty, employers, and parents. We are committed to this endeavor and we thank you, our valued community, as your continued support of and confidence in our services inspires us to accomplish more. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter which highlights several initiatives, programs, and services that the Career Center has recently accomplished.



Sincerely,

Jeremy Fisher

Director, John P. Fahey Career Center



EDGE Internships: A Win-Win for Departments and Students

By Katie McCarville



Another EDGE Intern supervisor, Dr. Joseph Ecklund, Ph.D., Director of Academic Success, on the other hand, emphasizes that interns help bring new projects to life. He comments, “The departments gain an opportunity for projects to move from the white board to reality, and to have them completed in a professional manner.” Other employer partners agree that young people “have brought a fresh perspective and renewed energy to our group” and provided “extremely valuable work.”

With the ambition to accomplish more, students look forward to making remarkable changes using their own enthusiastic and creative avenues. We look forward to broadening our employer partnerships around campus and matching the EDGE Interns and Creighton departments in positive and professional internship opportunities.

When we started EDGE Interns almost 2 years ago, it was a pilot project grounded in endless evidence that college interns effectively build their professionalism and make a significant difference in the growth of each department.

Last fall marked another milestone in the EDGE Internships Program: 20 more on-campus internship opportunities have been developed for Creighton students. This increased access to experiential learning became possible with the help of our partners – university departments and faculty. We embarked on a mission to figure out why our employer partners choose to engage in collaborative experiences and share their assets with our student-interns.

Over the past 3 semesters, Dr. Cindy Costanzo, Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean with the College of Nursing has guided 3 interns. She is an eager proponent of experiential learning as, according to her, it involves everyone. Students benefit personally, professionally, and academically. Faculty benefit from reciprocal learning and new insights. Dr.

Costanzo comments, “The EDGE Interns bring updated and current skill sets to the program, and if they don’t have the skillset, then we provide the education and training.” According to Dr. Costanzo, another added asset is student enthusiasm and connection to the Creighton community.

“Young people have brought a fresh perspective and renewed energy to our group and provided extremely valuable work.”

She says, “The interns are able to relate to the student population well...so I find having an intern provides a unique bridge for the faculty or staff facilitators and the students.”

SPRING 2017 CAREER FAIR:

Date: February 17th
Time: 12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Location: Harper Center Ballroom

ONE STUDENT COMMENTED ABOUT THE LAST CAREER FAIR:

Atending the Career Fair was both fun and helpful! Not only was it a great first step in meeting employers and getting myself out there in a professional setting, but the Career Center Staff was also visibly invested in the success of each and every student at the event. Receiving a free LinkedIn profile picture was also a useful addition to everything else I gained from my experience.



Get Clinical Experience & Get Paid

By Olga Zeisler



This fall, nearly 300 students from the EDGE Pre-Health Learning Community advanced on their path to professional school by examining available hands-on opportunities during the “Getting Clinical Experience & Getting Paid” panel discussion event. This annual event is an ongoing collaboration between the EDGE Pre-Health Learning Communities and the Career Center. Five representatives from Nebraska Medicine, CVS Pharmacy, Clarkson & Methodist Colleges, and Respite Across the Lifespan spoke about direct patient interaction as vital to students’ healthcare career discernment and success. The speakers highlighted the training needed and the best aspects of various jobs such as Pharmacy Technician,

Phlebotomist, Certified Nursing Assistant, Patient Care Technician, and others.

After the panel discussion, the students had a unique opportunity to ask a variety of questions and network with professionals in their field of interest. Molly Lindsey, a sophomore student on the pre-medicine track, commented, “It was wonderful to hear about all the different opportunities to get clinical experience. I had no idea there were so many options out there!” With the hope to capitalize on panelists’ diverse insights, pre-health students are excited to dive into direct patient interactions and acquire vibrant experiences that will one day enable them to become successful professionals and future leaders in the field of healthcare.

EDGE Scholars: The Importance of Networking

By Olga Zeisler



tion for future opportunities through networking. One of the invited guests reflected, “The ‘friend-of-a-friend’ connection is quite powerful because it is a win/win exchange of information, professional tips, and advice.

Professionals from healthcare consulting, law, banking, and medical fields engaged students in lively conversations...

In order to learn how networking and mentorship can become valuable tools when building and expanding careers, students from the EDGE Scholars Program collaborated with professionals from different industries during the recent Mix & Match Mentoring event.

As the inaugural cohort moves into the second year, the students are required to participate in an internship or other rigorous hands-on experience while

further exploring tools to enhance one’s career development. With the latter in mind, this event aimed at showcasing the value of creating and connecting with a network of contacts and enlisting their help in uncovering professional opportunities.

The event featured round-table dialogues. Professionals from the fields of healthcare consulting, law, banking, and medicine engaged students in lively conversations and helped to lay the founda-

When both learn something interesting or hopeful, you launched a successful networking relationship!” For the EDGE Scholars, some successful collaborations have already begun. Looking ahead, the students are optimistic to build on their new found networking skills to tap into professional opportunities and uncover new leads.

Matching Passion & Profit

By Heather Doering



The 13th annual Creighton Business Symposium, the largest student-run business conference in the nation, attracted a record number of attendees this year. On November 11, over 900 students, faculty and staff, alumni, panelists, employer sponsors, and prospective high school students convened at the CenturyLink Center Omaha for a jam-packed day of inspiring keynotes, career-specific panels, and networking opportunities.

Attendees agreed this year's opening and closing keynote speakers were dynamic and a perfect fit with the theme, *Matching Passion & Profit*. Jeanne Sullivan (JD'80), Chief Inspiration Officer of Sullivan Adventures and Co-Founder of StarVest Partners, kicked off the morning with advice on how to avoid the "5 stupid things we keep doing". The afternoon keynote, delivered by Jayme Martin (BSBA'92), VP & GM of Global Categories at Nike, Inc., wowed the audience with engaging Nike ads and Martin's passionate account of his professional journey.

Both speakers emphasized the importance of pursuing your passion and embracing the risk and failure you will encounter along the way. Not only is this event an annual highlight for current Creighton students from all majors, but it's also a valuable networking opportunity for the Heider College of Business.

Katrina Rieff, Director of Business Outreach, and Allison Sagehorn, Business Outreach Specialist, welcomed over 110 high school students, guests, and teachers from 11 states and 37 different high schools. In addition to attending the keynotes and listening to Heider students and faculty/administrators, this select group completed a crash course

A jam-packed day of inspiring keynotes, career-specific panels, and networking opportunities.

on business etiquette, practiced networking with their very own business cards.

The 2016 Symposium was bittersweet for Jeremy Fisher, Director of the John P. Fahey Career Center, who has served as the Advisor of the planning team for 13 years but is passing the torch on to the Business Career Counselor, Heather Doering. Commenting on Jeremy's contribution to another banner year, Katrina Rieff says, "Jeremy has transformed the Creighton Business Symposium into an event for all Creighton students, alumni and community partners and, more importantly, provided students with the tools to be successful business leaders." Going out with a bang, Jeremy is confident that the new Business Symposium Advisor will continue to achieve new heights in attendance, presenters and overall experiences.



5 Career Fair Myths Debunked

By D'Lynn Buck



When someone says “Career Fair” most people envision an event with lots of tables where people wearing suits shake hands and exchange business cards. While some of this vision is true of the Career Fairs here at Creighton, there are also some common misconceptions about these events.

Knowing the reality behind some of these assumed myths can help students land great internships or jobs. We host several Career Fairs each academic year. This past October, we held our general Fall Career Fair in addition to our second annual STEM Career Fair. On February 17, we will welcome over 90 employers and approximately 350 students to our Spring Career Fair. In order to help prepare our students to put their best foot forward, we want to debunk some common myths we hear from students about Career Fairs.

MYTH #1: *Career Fairs are just for business majors.*

TRUTH: Employers are looking for students with specific skill sets, not necessarily specific majors. In a 2014 survey conducted by the National Association of

Colleges and Employers, over 600 employers from over 20 industries identified the most sought after competencies they look for in new grads: Professionalism, Critical Thinking, Oral & Written Communications, and Teamwork. These highly sought skills are skills that any student can possess, whether their major is philosophy or accounting!

MYTH #2: *Businesses only have business jobs.*

TRUTH: Students also sometimes think that a corporation heavily focused on the business world only desires business majors. However, all organizations need public relations professionals, human resource managers, communications coordinators, analysts, trainers, compliance experts and many other professionals with knowledge gained from a variety of majors.

MYTH #3: *Career Fair networking ends when the Career Fair ends.*

TRUTH: The connections made at the Career Fair are often just the first steps in creating an impression and developing a relationship with an employer. Many recruiters keep track of how many times a candidate contacts them, a factor they consider when making hiring decisions.

Collecting business cards at the Career Fair and then sending a follow up email to reiterate interest in a position can make a huge difference in moving forward in the interview process.

MYTH #4: *There's not enough time at the Career Fair to make an impression.*

TRUTH: A first impression is made in 7 seconds. Recruiters attend the Career Fair specifically to have brief yet authentic conversations with students who could potentially be the right fit for a position within their organization. Students should come prepared with a good handshake, bright smile and a well-polished elevator pitch – all essential ingredients to an interaction they will remember.

MYTH #5: *Career Fairs are just for seniors.*

TRUTH: Career Fairs are for all students at Creighton. Recruiters often recruit for both entry level and internship openings. One student attendee of our Fall Career Fair said, “I went as a freshman looking more as an opportunity to work on presenting myself and to find possible future internships. I ended up being contacted by two organizations looking to employ me.” Many internships begin the summer before sophomore year so freshman year is not too early to begin networking with recruiters.

Our Career Center staff hopes to debunk these myths for students so we can increase their attendance at Career Fairs and help them use these events as a helpful tool on their career exploration journey. Finally, our students should know that they already have a leg up as the employers who attend our Career Fairs are excited to talk with our students. One recruiter recently mentioned, “Creighton students are the best!”





Student Spotlight

By Katie McCarville & Nicole Methven

A Junior in the Heider College of Business majoring in Economics, Katie Hart, has secured three different internship opportunities in the past semesters, and has recently discussed with us her perspective on the role of hands-on experiences during her time at Creighton. In answering our questions, here is what she shared:

Q: Katie, could you please describe your internship experiences and what were some of the most memorable moments?

A: [I first acquired an internship through] the EDGE Internship Program. It helped prepare me for my summer and current internships by teaching me how to manage multiple projects at the same time.

[As a Policy and Coalitions Intern with the State Policy Network at the Charles Koch Institute], I performed database management and worked with over 200 grassroots coalitions to support the SPN Unsung Hero Award. I found it fascinating to hear stories and engage with ideas. Attending networking events and being in Washington, D.C. helped me grow not only professionally but also personally as I gained more independence and confidence.

[Through my year-round internship at the First National Bank Financial Crimes Department], so far, my most memorable experience has been shadowing different directors, particularly the Fraud and Financial Crimes Vice President. It gave me valuable insight into the department from the beginning in a way that would have been impossible to replicate in any other situation.

Q: How has the Career Center helped you during your time at Creighton?

A: The Career Center has played an extremely influential role during my time thus far at Creighton. Since the beginning of my freshman year, the Career Center has provided valuable support and tools. From resume building to [internship search and professional development tips], to LinkedIn help and mock interviews, the Career Center has helped me feel prepared and confident going into job interviews.

Q: What advice do you have for students trying to secure internship opportunities?

A: My advice is to take the risk and just apply to anything and everything that interests you. I also recommend taking advantage of the Career Center services, step out of your comfort zone; it made me feel more prepared [for my internships].

Staff Profile: What did you want to be when you were young?

By Nicole Methven



Jeremy Fisher, Director: "When I was little, I wanted to be an architect and a professional basketball player or coach. I really enjoyed drawing and building things, and I also loved sports. Going into college, I thought I wanted to be a high school guidance counselor and coach high school basketball. Today, I love the field of career counseling and now I get to coach my kids' basketball teams for fun."



Rachel Gibson, Associate Director: "I wanted to be a Storm Chaser when I was a kid. I grew up in Oklahoma and was equally fascinated and terrified by the weather. I wanted to understand how it worked. As I got older, my fascination with understanding why things worked the way they did did not change, but I found people even more interesting to try to understand, a skill that helps me in the counseling I do every day."



Heather Doering, Business Career Counselor: "I wanted to be a teacher because my sister and I played school all of the time. She is older so she only ever let me be the assistant... so I couldn't wait until one day to be the head teacher. After working in business for a while, I gravitated back to my original passion: Education. At the end of the day, I view my current career as being an educator."



Katie McCarville, Career & Internship Counselor: "I wanted to be either a teacher or a lawyer. When I was little, I always wanted to be a teacher in the game of Life and when I was playing with my Barbie dolls. When I got older, I loved negotiating and problem-solving which is why I love my job counseling students."



Olga Zeisler, Arts & Sciences Career Counselor: "I thought about becoming a rocket scientist or a teacher; after choosing the latter, I believe today I am incorporating a lot of strategies and career counseling teaching tools in my work with students. Meeting students and alumni at various stages in their careers, I assist by extending knowledge and resources to help achieve career goals."



Nicole Methven, Administrative Assistant: "When I was little, I wanted to be a teacher. I would come home and play school every single day with stuffed animals as my students. My little brother would be forced to play the teacher's assistant and had to pretend to be the stuffed animals. However, this helped me to determine what I was passionate about, working with students and being in education."



D'Lynn Buck, Career Development Coordinator: "When I was little, I wanted to be Miss America. I loved watching The Miss America Pageant and I would spend hours drawing the dresses I would wear someday when I was a contestant! I was never crowned "Miss America" but now I get to be a part of helping the Career Center put our best foot forward through the events we coordinate for students."



Neil Lulla, Graduate Assistant: "My brother and I grew up playing basketball together, and I always watched basketball when I was little so I thought it would be cool to be a basketball player. As fun as that would have been, I am much happier to be in a career where I can help students."

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