

Career Conference: Engaging Students in Career Exploration

March 24, 2017 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.: Check-in, refreshments, networking with vendors Candid Career and Emsi (Career Coach)

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.: Welcome and Keynote presentation: Preparing for the Labor Market of today, and tomorrow.



Aaron R. Fichtner, Ph.D., Acting Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Our Workforce Development and Educational systems are in a critical period of evolution. Success in the workforce that we are preparing our students and customers to join, or advance in, requires increasingly agile competencies that make individual investments in education and skill building more important than ever. Yet many people are in the difficult position of balancing the need for these types of investments with very real constraints on their time and financial resources. We can help ease this balancing act by ensuring that our collective counseling and guidance efforts are aligned and designed around employer led career pathways that embrace work based learning and lead to Industry valued credentials. Promoting easy access to consistently high quality career planning information and strategies will enable students and job seekers to maximize the value of every minute and dollar that they invest in themselves.

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.: Breakout sessions, http://guidebook.com/g/careerconference or http://guidebook.com/guide/90602

Increasing Awareness and Recruitment for CTE Programs (Parkview Room, West Hall): The NJDOE Office of Career Readiness will outline comprehensive efforts aimed at ensuring that all students are not only college-ready, but that they graduate high school prepared for careers. Career and technical education (CTE) is a viable option for students in New Jersey and prepares them for careers in STEM, healthcare, agriculture, engineering and technology. This presentation will discuss the shared vision for the future of CTE and why CTE is more engaging for students. In addition, this session will provide strategies to communicate the benefits of CTE programs to students, parents and the community.

Presenters: Lori Howard, Education Program Development Specialist, Office of Career Readiness, NJ Department of Education; Kathleen Paquette, Education Program Specialist, NJ Department of Education; Lori Perlow, Admissions Officer/Community Liaison, Mercer County Technical Schools

In NJ I CAN by using "NJCAN" (Brunswick Room, Crabiel Hall): The New Jersey Career Assistance Navigator (NJCAN) website is a state of the art, comprehensive easy to use tool to assist students and adults with navigating potential career pathways to determine a realistic plan for their future career. During our presentation we will explore NJCAN and provide examples of the benefits and results this tool offers. Participants will learn to navigate the website to assist students with planning their career paths from exploring career assessments, building a resume and job searching.

Presenter: Christine Tomkus, Planning Associate 2, New Jersey Department of Education

Major in Happiness: Debunking the College Major Fallacies (Raritan Bay Room, Crabiel Hall): The preconceptions and suspicions about how things operate in today's challenging global marketplace often compel people to forge correlations with causations without any substantial evidence. Unfortunately, this flawed thinking is the foundation upon which many students declare their undergraduate major. With the repayment of college loans as a paramount issue for students and their families, the major is often viewed as the stepping stone for a career that can repay those loans instead of the first step to a meaningful life based on leadership, purpose, and service. Students should declare a major that makes them happy.

Presenter: Michael Edmondson, Ph.D., Director, Center for Continuing Studies, Mercer County Community College

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.: Breakout sessions continued

Vision for Integrating Career Planning into an Advisement Strategy that Supports the Guided Pathways Initiative: A Roundtable Think Tank (Amboy Room, Crabiel Hall): Passaic County Community College presents their proposed & current strategies to infuse career development into the advising process. This presentation will invite and encourage discussion between participants on their plans and what's working on individual campuses as it relates to career advisement.

Presenters: Tom Moore, Coordinator of Career and Professional Readiness; Darleen McGrath-Florance, Director, Center for Student Success; Elizabeth Harrison, Associate Director and Transfer Specialist, Center for Student Success: Passaic County Community College

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch, networking, and visiting with vendors Candid Career and Emsi (Career Coach)

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Breakout sessions, http://guidebook.com/g/careerconference or http://guidebook.com/guide/90602

"Welcome to the Real World" Planning Comprehensive Career & Leadership Development Programs on Your Campus (Parkview Room, West Hall): This highly interactive workshop will provide attendees with a comprehensive plan for creating and managing career and leadership events for students! We will begin with CAREER EXPLORATION, where participants will engage in hands-on activities related to values and career exploration, and then move to CAREER ENGAGEMENT, where participants will learn about career events and how to implement them. Participants will engage in a "mock" career fair, networking, and interactive resumewriting activities. We will also discuss creating and building meaningful connections. Finally, a focus on CAREER READINESS, to discuss career competencies, partnerships, and programs to prepare students for their careers.

Presenters: Sarah J. McElroy, Director of Career & Leadership Development; Jill Donovan, Assistant Director Career & Leadership Development; Anne La Porta, Assistant Director Career & Leadership Development: Brookdale Community College

Information in Action with New Jersey Career Connections (Brunswick Room, Crabiel Hall): The labor market is increasingly complex and fast-moving. Success, whether the goal is immediate employment or developing a long term career plan, requires a dynamic approach centered around reliable information and high yield actions. In this session, members of New Jersey's Department of Labor and Workforce Development will discuss resources and strategies that Career Guidance professionals can use to help their students make the right Plan, Prepare themselves, and SUCCEED in their career goals.

Presenters: Bob Grimmie, Executive Director, New Jersey Career Connections and Workforce Operations; Patricia Davis, User Experience Manager, New Jersey Career Connections; David W. Ramsay, Director, Division of Workforce, Research & Analytics; Jason Timian, Labor Market Analyst I, Division of Workforce, Research & Analytics: NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Strategic Planning for a Community College Student's Job Search (Raritan Bay Room, Crabiel Hall): This interactive workshop will focus on actionable strategies that community college professionals can use to aid students in gaining a better understanding of who they are and key areas of focus when exploring career options. Participants will learn how to walk students through three strategic planning processes that have been adapted for individual career planning and finding one's passion. These are the Environmental Scan, the SWOTT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats, and Trends), and the Organizational Culture Assessment.

Presenter: Miriam L. Frolow, Ph.D., Director of Academic Affairs, University of Phoenix

There's No Such Thing as a Small Career Office: Leveraging Resources through Guided Pathways (Amboy Room, Crabiel Hall): Community College Career Development offices are usually small in staff, folded into a larger advising center, or both. Given the resource limitations and increased employment focus by students and taxpayers, leveraging available campus resources can often be the difference between visible wins and mediocrity. By embracing key elements of the Guided Pathways approach, Career Development at Hudson County Community College has been able to make strong connections that turn the entire college community into career advisors. Participants will learn about recent Guided Pathways adaptations at the College, develop materials that will help engage the campus community, and create action plans to take back to campus.

Presenters: Aparna Saini, Director, Career Development; Christopher Wahl, Dean of Instruction/Arts: Hudson County Community College

3:00 p.m. Registrants return to Parkview Room, West Hall for CEUs and PDs if needed







