Career Planning and Placement Center Launches Expanded Job Search System

James Case
Director, Career Planning & Placement Center

The Career Planning and Placement Center launched an expanded version of the Titan Connection job search system for students this fall. The new system combines the cutting-edge technology of the award winning CSUF Student Portal with several new options to help students find full-time jobs, internships, career related part-time jobs, both on and off campus, and community service/volunteer opportunities in a highly secure and easy to use format.

Enhanced Flexibility and Ease of Use

The new system provides an integrated view of jobs from several sources, including various internship and job fairs, campus interviews, job postings, and volunteer opportunities. “On one screen, students can see not only the many jobs that are available from all of these sources,” said Jim Case, Director of the Career Planning and Placement Center, “but also which of the positions match their major and career interests.” The new system also features an option for students to set electronic agents that will automatically send an email whenever new positions are added that meet their criteria. “In the past, many students missed key opportunities if they failed to check several different sources on a frequent basis,” Case said. “The new system allows students to manage their time much more effectively.” A new online calendar also enables students to set alerts to make sure they do not miss crucial deadlines and events.

New Tools for Students

The system encourages employers and community service organizations participating in any of the services offered by the career center to post current opportunities, create profiles of their organizations, and direct interested students to their websites for more information. Students can apply to any positions for which they qualify online, as well as bookmark favorite employers for further research and follow-up.

More Jobs

The expanded Titan Connection also gives students secure access to a growing database of national employers seeking to hire graduating college students (NaceLink Connect) and a database of strong regional opportunities also focused on college students (MonsterTrak). The Student Portal limits access to enrolled students and recent graduates, consistent with the competitive edge that graduation from the university provides alumni. As the new alumni portal comes online in the near future, plans are to expand these resources to experienced alumni, as well, to extend the University’s efforts to provide a continuing connection with the Titans.
The Student Affairs newsletter was created to provide information and insights regarding programs, activities and events that contribute to advancing the mission of CSUF. The Division of Student Affairs, with a diverse and complex set of responsibilities, contributes to the mission of the university by providing a special perspective about students, their experiences, and the campus environments. The mission of Student Affairs encompasses the dual paradigms of student services and student development. Student services address the programs and activities that support the academic enterprise while student development involves those interpersonal and affective strategies through which students learn. Our student services and student development efforts are designed to correspond with the institution's mission and goals; this re-enforces and extends the university's influence beyond the classroom. As a result, students' experiences and opportunities are integral parts of the educational process.

You will see that we function in ways that recognize that students benefit from many and varied experiences during their years at the university and that learning and personal development are cumulative, mutually shaping processes that occur over an extended period of time in many different settings. We endeavor to create a balance between curriculum and co-curriculum and work to make “seamless” the inside and outside class activities of students.

None of these services or student development efforts would be effectively implemented without the hard work of the dedicated and talented Student Affairs staff. Members of the CSUF Student Affairs family are committed to the total development of the student, and they work to ensure students are given the tools and resources needed to succeed and prosper both during their time at CSUF and beyond. The Student Affairs newsletter highlights the efforts of staff from the many and diverse units within the division. It also profiles an outstanding staff member in each edition, recognizing that the excellence they demonstrate in their daily work translates to an enriched and enhanced experience for CSUF students.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Palmer, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs
Volunteer & Service Center In Brief

CSUF Students, Faculty and Staff Make a Difference in Orange County

Sabrina Sanders
Volunteer & Service Center
Dean of Students Office

The Volunteer and Service Center at CSUF is a nationally recognized program that has recently experienced notable growth and recognition. Last year, the program was awarded the “Outstanding Community Service” Award from Disneyland Resorts, “Outstanding Volunteer Organization” Award from Orange County Philanthropy Day and the “Daily Point of Light” Award from the Points of Light Foundation.

Located on the lower level of the Titan Student Union, the Volunteer and Service Center is staffed by volunteer community service leaders, working closely with student assistants and one full-time coordinator. The Volunteer and Service Center offers a wealth of volunteer resources for students, faculty and staff at Cal State Fullerton. A variety of information on service projects ranging from one-day events to year-long commitments is available to visitors of the center. Stop by TSU Room 2 for a visit, check out the center’s web page at www.fullerton.edu/deanofstudents or contact us at volunteer@fullerton.edu to learn about all of the exciting opportunities available.

Habitat for Humanity
Building Project in Costa Mesa, CA

Habitat Restoration Project
Focus on student learning both inside and outside of the classroom has fueled increasing research within higher education over the last ten years. Alexander Astin (1993) and Pascarella and Terrenzini (1991) have added to this body of literature, which includes examinations of family background, political viewpoints, socioeconomic status, attitudes, values, and beliefs in relationship to college experience. One of their primary research findings is that student employment, defined by Astin (1991) as “any non-credit-bearing activity in which students participate and for which they receive financial compensation” and leads to positive effects on overall student development, higher grade point average, faster degree completion, more frequent self reported cognitive and affective development and greater overall academic achievement (Canabal, 1998; Ehrenberg & Sherman, 1987; Furr & Elling, 2000; Pascarella, Bohr, Nora, Desler, & Zusman 1994; Stern & Nakata, 1999).

Using this theoretical foundation, the Associated Students, CSUF, Inc. (ASI) developed a questionnaire to assess student perceptions on employment outcomes within its program and facility areas in May 2003. The ASI employs approximately 200 students annually within the areas of administration and student leadership, Children’s Center, Rec Sports and the Titan Student Union. Student employment positions range from entry-level to student managers.

The survey was designed to solicit student feedback within and around the three process areas: cognitive, affective and skill-based outcomes and included specific questions regarding employment values, supervisor perceptions, skill development, job satisfaction, and overall college satisfaction.

Students employed by ASI completed an anonymous survey consisting of 46 questions, including both Lickert scale and write-in responses. Student employees were not required to participate. In total, 147 surveys were collected representing 75% of the students employed. Students’ class standing, academic college, gender, ethnicity, and age were included as demographic information for survey sample comparison purposes with the overall campus student population. In each of these demographic areas, the survey sample matched the overall population and did not indicate any significant differences (at the .05 level). A highlighted summary of the findings is outlined below.
In the first section of the survey, students were asked several questions as they related to their perceptions of the value and contribution of their employment. One statement within this section, “I feel valued at work,” generated a positive response from student employees with a mean score of 4.01. The frequency distribution of student respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with the statement was 75.6%, followed by neutral at 15.6% and disagree or strongly disagree at 8.9%.

The second section of the survey focused on student perceptions of their supervisors. Students responses to the statement, “My supervisor works with my class schedule,” yielded a positive mean of 4.63 and a standard deviation of .65387. Of the responses, 69.4% strongly agreed, followed by 25.9% agreeing, 3.4% neutral and less than 1% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.

When asked about job satisfaction, 89.1% described their experience as positive, 8.2% neutral and less than 3% negative. When asked if ASI creates a positive work environment, 74.8% of the employees agreed while 17.7% were neutral and 7.5% disagreed.

Within the skill-based outcomes section of the survey, students were asked to rate the skills they have acquired through their employment in ASI. Among the highlights in this section, students rated enhancement of communication skills (mean=4.07), problem solving skills (mean=4.04), greater appreciation for diversity (mean=4.03), leadership skills (mean=3.99), and critical thinking skills (mean=3.90) high as a result of their employment experience. Within the last section of the survey, students were asked if they are “More satisfied with their college experience at Cal State Fullerton, as a result of their ASI employment.” Of the 147 responses, 78.3% or 115 employees agreed or strongly agreed with this statement, while 17.7% (26) were neutral and less than 3.5% (6) disagreed or strongly disagreed.

The survey results provide a snapshot of our current student experiences and gave us a measure from which to conduct other assessment and learning outcomes measures in the future. The impact of student employment corresponds closely with our mission to provide a holistic education for our student leaders and student employees, while providing quality services, facilities and programs to the campus community. Full survey results are available upon request.

Introducing New Head Coaches

Winning Additions to CSUF Basketball

There is a new scoreboard hanging in Titan Gymnasium and the Cal State Fullerton Athletics Department is anticipating that the two new head basketball coaches will be responsible for lighting up more Titan victories!

Veteran junior college coach Bob Burton has taken over the men's program while Dr. Maryalyce Jeremiah resigned after 11 years as CSUF's Senior Woman Administrator to return to the head coaching role she held with the women's team from the 1985-86 through 1991-92 seasons.

“We couldn't be more excited about these coaches,' said Athletics Director Brian Quinn. "I've never had, in all my years, such an outpouring of support for any one candidate for any position for any sport as I received for Bob Burton.' Basketball coaches at all levels throughout California and from numerous collegiate programs from across the nation, have said “what a great coach he is and what a perfect fit he is for Cal State Fullerton,” added Quinn.

And we again have one of the finest women's basketball coaches in the country at our institution with Dr. Maryalyce Jeremiah. We will greatly miss her as an administrator – she did great things to assure gender equity and fairness for female student-athletes on campus – but we know that our women's program is going to rise again under her great leadership," said Quinn.

Burton posted a 507-167 record in 21 seasons at West Valley Community College in Saratoga, California. He sent more than 80 players to Division I programs, and more than 100 to other four-year colleges. He served one year as an assistant at Utah in 1986-87 and last year as an assistant at Fresno State. There he helped his former player, Ray Lopes, take the Bulldogs to a conference championship in their first season while restoring academic credibility. He inherits eight returning lettermen from a team that went 10-19 last season including an 8-10 mark, good for sixth place, in the Big West Conference.

Dr. Jeremiah compiled a 112-93 record in 21 seasons at West Valley Community College in Saratoga, California. He sent more than 80 players to Division I programs, and more than 100 to other four-year colleges. He served one year as an assistant at Utah in 1986-87 and last year as an assistant at Fresno State. There he helped his former player, Ray Lopes, take the Bulldogs to a conference championship in their first season while restoring academic credibility. He inherits eight returning lettermen from a team that went 10-19 last season including an 8-10 mark, good for sixth place, in the Big West Conference.

Dr. Jeremiah compiled a 112-93 record at Fullerton which includes NCAA Tournament appearances in 1989 and 1991 and Big West Conference coach of the year honors in 1987-88 and 1990-91. Among her new coaching staff is former Titan All-American center Genia Miller Rycraw. Dr. Jeremiah previously coached at Cedarville, Dayton, and Indiana and has a 23-year career record of 375-236. She greets 11 returning letterwinners from a 7-21 team that was 5-11 and finished in eighth place in the Big West.

Tickets to all Cal State Fullerton athletic events can now be purchased on the Titans' athletic website at www.TitanSports.org. Among the options is the popular All-Sports Pass, which provides admittance to ALL home events for only $250 for a potential savings of hundreds of dollars. Seasonal passes also are available for $125 for the winter sports (M/W basketball and wrestling) and $150 for the spring sports (baseball, softball and women's gymnastics).
In an outstanding display of recognition and support, the California State Legislature approved Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 124, which declared September as Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP) month. The measure introduced by Marco Antonio Firebaugh, Assembly Majority Floor Leader 50th Assembly District, passed both houses of the Legislature with bipartisan support and lauds EOP and EOPS for its efforts and stresses the importance of keeping these programs available for the next generation of Californians. The legislature's appreciation of the accomplishments of these programs is especially critical during a budget climate where special educational programs, which support access and diversity, are threatened.

Over 275,000 EOP students have graduated from the CSU system and over 4,600 from Cal State Fullerton since 1980. The Educational Opportunity Program is charged with improving access and retention of economically disadvantaged students who have the potential to succeed at the university level but may be unable to realize that potential due to educational or economic barriers. The Fullerton program, which formally started in 1970, over 33 years ago, presently has an enrollment of 1,950 students with 50% Hispanic, 27% Asian/Pacific, 8% African-American, and 7% White.

The program, staffed with five professional academic counselors, enjoys one of the highest five-year persistence and graduation rates of EOP programs in the CSU system. With strong support from the Division of Student Affairs, EOP on the Fullerton Campus is poised to continue providing academic support to students and achieving accomplishments which the legislature applauds.
Rochelle Woods is the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. She has been at CSUF since 1996 and formerly served in the role of Coordinator of Student Activities in the Dean of Students Office. She started in the field of Student Affairs in 1993 after graduating with a M.A. in College Student Personnel Administration in Higher Education from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.

Rochelle’s professional involvement includes membership in the American College Personnel Association (ACPA). At the 2002 ACPA National Convention in Long Beach, she served on the Special Projects committee by coordinating the volunteer projects. She recently co-authored an article with Nancee Wright (Assistant Dean, College of Human Development and Community Service) about the role of the Assistant Dean at CSUF. The article will appear in the November/December issue of About Campus. She has also been an active member of the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) taking on several roles.

Her favorite part of the job is being able to help students find solutions to their problems. As an Assistant Dean, she feels that if she doesn’t know the answer to a question from a student, she will work to find it. “One of the indications that I am succeeding at my job is when students feel comfortable stopping by my office to ask questions or refer their friends to me because they feel I’ve been helpful.”

Rochelle believes that the role of Student Affairs in higher education is to provide essential support services and programs that promote the holistic development of college students. Student Affairs collaborates with the other divisions of the institution and facilitates a partnership that aids in successful student matriculation. Often through this partnership, administrators, faculty, and staff become more aware of issues and theories related to student development. It is through continuous interactions and dialogues between student affairs practitioners and other members of the university community, that student interests are kept at the forefront of discussions and become integrated into the decision making processes which affect students’ well being at the institution.
Philip Vasquez understands the importance of student leadership on a college campus. As a student leader who has served in a variety of elected and appointed positions, Vasquez’s personal philosophy regarding student involvement is: be proactive and get involved. Philip has done exactly that, selected to serve most recently as the chair of the ASI Board of Directors.

As Chair, Philip oversees the Board of Directors who are in charge of all funding and money allotted under ASI. He also oversees the Board in creating policies and bylaws for ASI and serves ex-officio as a non-voting member for all ASI committees. In essence, he is involved with running a $10 million corporation. Such a position requires a particular interest in governing, student affairs and leadership, which is where Vasquez sees his future.

Philip’s upbringing provided a solid foundation on which he has built an impressive list of leadership positions. Vasquez’s parents encouraged their son to get involved and fostered in him a sense of independence. As a result, Philip took a student leadership opportunity at age 13 as a U.S. Student Ambassador through a program started by President Eisenhower in the 1950s. Philip’s experiences gained from the U.S. Student Ambassador program ignited his passion for travel (his favorite destination is London), policy and governing, and leadership.

Philip sees student leadership as “a great forum to hone skills” and strongly believes in creating such opportunities to get students involved on campus. Vasquez’s leadership roles on campus have included: ASI representative to the Titan Student Union Governing Board, resident advisor in University Housing, CSUF representative at the California Higher Education Student Summit, lobbying for student interests at the state government level and New Student Orientation (NSO) leader.

As an NSO leader, Philip was exposed to student affairs and the many student leadership opportunities on campus. Through NSO, Philip met Lea Jarnagin, Associate Dean for New Student Programs. Jarnagin introduced Philip to the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), and its Minority Undergraduate Fellows Program. Philip applied and was accepted as an undergraduate fellow with the organization. Following graduation from CSUF, Philip is looking to attend graduate school to pursue a Master of Science degree and hopes to secure a career in student affairs administration on a college campus. His fellowship with NASPA is helping prepare him for the graduate school process.

As a student leader on the CSUF campus, Philip hopes to bridge the gap between Associated Students Inc. and university administration. He aspires to make ASI an increasingly active player in the administration of CSUF and motivate students to take action and get involved in student leadership.
Facilitating Student Success
Assistant Deans Update

College of the Arts (COTA)

Dean Harris, the newest assistant dean, is deep in the middle of probation advising, helping students to balance their work and family responsibilities with their educational goals, interests, and academic load. COTA students seem unusually stressed this term possibly due to circumstances unique to this academic year: tight course offerings, parking issues, and financial burdens (other assistant deans have similar reports).

He is also very busy visiting local high schools and community colleges recruiting students to the college for next fall. In addition, he is planning a recognition event in November for the 75 honors students and President’s Scholars in the College. Hosted by COTA Dean Jerry Samuelson, the event will honor high-achieving students in music, theatre, dance, and the visual arts.

College of Business & Economics

Lea Beth Lewis, the new assistant dean in the College of Business and Economics, is currently planning the “Professor for a Day” program scheduled for two days in November. More than one hundred alumni, alumnae, and representatives from a wide variety of industries will visit the college to network, lecture, and generally share with students the daily realities of working in business. The much more expansive Business Week, the College’s annual career exploration event, which is designed and implemented by students, is slated for March and is expected to be bigger than ever.

College of Communications

All of the assistant deans are involved in helping new students transition to the university. Peggy Garcia Bockman, Assistant Dean in the College of Communications, devotes a good amount of time guiding the activity of student clubs and organizations-important societies that facilitate that transition. Peggy meets regularly with faculty advisors and new club presidents during the fall semester to act as a resource to enhance their effectiveness. Her efforts, but especially those of the officers and representatives of the Communications InterClub Council (SOAR), have not gone unnoticed: this past year SOAR was recognized as the Associated Students, CSUE, Inc. Most Outstanding Organization.
College of Engineering & Computer Science

To combat a national trend of declining enrollments in technical fields, College of Engineering and Computer Science Assistant Dean, Lisa Jones has implemented a comprehensive recruitment plan for fall 2003, including mailings, outreach events, and personal contact to applicants. She has high expectations for the plan for it yielded a doubling in the fall 2003 FTF enrollment and an increase surpassing 50 percent for transfer enrollment.

Lisa is also very busy planning the Engineering and Computer Science Week, scheduled for February. This annual event, which brings together CSUF students with prospective students, includes guest speakers, student project displays, an alumni luncheon, a career fair, and the hazardous, but always exciting egg-dropping contest wherein students drop eggs from the top of the Humanities building hoping that the protective covering they engineered for the egg will inhibit breakage.

College of Human Development and Community Services

The campus community is adjusting quite well to the new 71,000-square-foot Kinesiology and Health Science building that opened this fall. To complement the new wellness center and gymnasium, Assistant Dean Nancee Wright partnered with the Titan Student Union Board and the departments of Kinesiology and Health Science to establish a TSU student lounge in the new building. This new space will provide students with an additional place on campus in which to conduct business, study, and relax.

Nancee is also very busy executing the daily responsibilities of an assistant dean, such as new student recruitment; encouraging students to use and making referrals to Student Affairs resources; orienting new faculty to Student Affairs resources and relevant university policies; advising students, faculty, clubs and organizations; and planning various retention events.

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

During November, Michael Paul Wong is deep in the middle of advising students on academic probation, providing two workshops per day, Monday through Friday, through the HSS Retention/Student Success Program. Michael Paul is expecting several hundred students to attend, all eager to have their registration hold removed, and many ready to seriously address the academic, personal, and financial issues that led to their probationary status.

Keenly aware of the strong link between retention and involvement, Michael Paul advises the 55 clubs and organizations in the College and is working to establish three or four more this year. He will also be visiting the Asian Pacific American club meetings to encourage members to participate in the Asian Pacific American Graduation Reception next spring, and to make use of the Multicultural Mentoring Program, sponsored by the Asian Faculty & Staff Association.

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

In the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NSM), Rochelle Woods is making plans for the fifth annual visit of the Young Black Scholars program. Approximately 80 first-year high school students will experience what it means to be a scientist by participating in a variety of hands-on laboratory experiences.

Student traffic continues to increase in the Opportunity Center for Science and Math students in McCarthy Hall Room 488. The center provides NSM students with computers and Internet access to research web sites on scholarships, careers, graduate study, and scientific subjects. The center is also home to Dimensions, the College’s award-winning journal for undergraduate research. The 2003/04 issue is in production and will be published in the spring.
Divisional & University-Wide Committees Updates

Alcohol and Other Drug Advisory Committee (AODAC)

The AODAC provides leadership for alcohol and other drug prevention and education programs on campus, makes policy recommendations to campus leadership, coordinates research on campus and provides training to various campus groups. This university-wide committee is chaired by the Dean of Students, Kandy Mink, with staff support provided by Kappy Ruzzi from the Vice President for Student Affairs Office. The committee meets monthly during the school year and membership is open to all interested persons. Contact Kappy Ruzzi at 278-3221 for more information about meetings.

Student Affairs Self-Study Committee

The Division of Student Affairs is currently undertaking a Self Study. Utilizing the Council for the Advancement of Standards (CAS) Standard and Guidelines documents, representatives from each Student Affairs department are currently creating their assessment plans and meeting as a group regularly. The Self Study will be completed by March 2004 and a summary document will be published. This committee is chaired by the Dean of Students Kandy Mink, with staff support provided by Kappy Ruzzi from the Vice President for Student Affairs Office. Contact Kandy Mink at 278-3211 for more information.