BREAKOUT SESSION MINUTES

Session: Career Development

Session Leaders: Pat Whittington (Ohio State), Adam Cahill (Ohio State), and Melissa Kahn (NC State)
Recorded by: Ashley Abernethy

Presentation: “Pardon the Career Interruption”

Career Technology:
- We are working with generation nexters, are we ready?

ePortfolios:
- A digitized “self portrait” of students as learners.
- Why would a student use an ePortfolio?
- Same use as traditional portfolios but stored entirely electronically
- Student designs this digital portfolio and then is able to email the link for their portfolio to potential employers or grad schools.
- Students can make their portfolios private and then decide who gets to see this information. If the student prefers, he/she can have a public portfolio.
- It can be stored on a web server or on a CD.
- Do employers respond well to this?
- It is a new technology and varies by job/major type

Video Interviewing:
- Most would prefer face-to-face interviews, but with rising travel prices video interviewing is becoming more popular.
- Can be a time saver, a resource saver, and a screening process.
- It is dependent on provider, but Ohio State uses a service that is free to colleges, but employers pay for the service.
- The popularity of this will most likely be dependent upon employer preferences.

Technology Grab Bag:
- What are some technology items that are helping or hindering your ability to assist students?
- Resume Templates – students can rely too heavily upon this which does not present their abilities in the best light. This technology, which is designed to help, can actually hinder the students.

Peer Mentoring:
- Peer counselors work with the career services office at NC State to help with resume reviews, weekly workshops, and career assessments.
- NC State also uses the “REACH Team.” Their primary purpose is to promote our services. Peer advertising can be more effective than hearing information from members of the office.
- “Career Liaisons” were students that provided a venue for career services that is less intimidating than coming in to speak with a college/university staff member.
- Peer-to-peer interaction provides word-of-mouth advertising.
Social Networking

- What is the most popular social networking site for college students? Answer: Facebook
- Offices can use Facebook to find out what recent graduates are doing if they have not responded to the placement survey.
- NC State has a Facebook group that is run by students. This provides another venue for peer-to-peer communication about career services.
- Students have responded well to the Facebook groups.

Sharing Resources:

- Staff outreach to student clubs
- Having late-night study sessions
- Have students go out on campus to advertise services

Why Should Students Volunteer?

- Allows them to build relationships with other students
- They can make career contacts
- Giving back to the college they love
- Developing leadership skills

Face Time – Tell us what you really think

- Do you think it is important for a student to have an objective on a resume?
  - Our group thought: Yes, specific to an organization
  - NACE Poll of Employers said: Yes, but a fairly broad objective.
  - May not be as important if accompanied by a cover letter.
- What are your thoughts about listing references on a resume?
  - Our group thought: Names and contact information on a separate sheet accompanying the resume
  - NACE Poll of Employers said: References available upon request
  - This is NOT what we are telling our students in career services
- Should students list a GPA on resume?
  - Our group said: Only if above 3.0
  - NACE Poll of Employers said: Only if above 2.5; close second said yes, always
- How valuable is study abroad or international experience in gaining an entry-level position?
  - Our group said: Very valuable
  - NACE Poll of Employers said: Not particularly valuable for entry-level but critical for advancement within company.
- Do you think a female should wear a skirted suit rather than a pantsuit to an interview?
  - Our group said: Yes
  - NACE Poll of Employers said: No opinion, 5% said yes