Sullivan University recently held its first “Reverse Career Fair” for the students and graduates of the Pharmacy Technician program. Career Services for Sullivan’s College of Health Sciences and the Academic Leadership faculty of the Pharmacy Technician program collaborated to create and carry out this unique event.

“It’s a Career Fair, only in reverse,” said Beth Davison, Associate Director of Career Services for The College of Health Sciences, adding, “We flipped the tables allowing students to stand behind the booth while employers walked the room. This unique opportunity allowed the students to interview one on one with up to 20 employers in just a few hours. Students did an amazing job, and the feedback from the employers indicated that they interviewed extremely well.”

Hiring managers in attendance were the decision makers when it comes to hiring top Pharmacy Technician talent for their companies. Pharmacy directors, owners and managers were among the 20 employers that participated in the Reverse Career Fair. Each indicated that they will be interviewing students back for second round interviews and considering them for current and future positions. Just three days after the event, a few students were hired at competitive rates with top-notch companies such as Time Warner Cable, Texas Roadhouse, and Saudi Aramco, officially the Saudi Arabian Oil Company.

“Sullivan is the heart of my web of networking. I had more than just teachers in my professors at Sullivan. I had mentors, advisors, and supporters. Over time, they’ve become my friends and contacts in the business world. . . . Almost 99% of your success comes from who you know and how you present yourself to those people. Career expos are a great way to make these connections, or at the very least practice your skills in doing so. I hope students recognize that and continue to attend these expos.”

Christen Schenkemafter, Director of The Pharmacy Technician Program explained that “my favorite part of the Reverse Career Fair was seeing how excited the students were for the opportunity and how involved they became in the process. Seeing students dressed in suits and preparing to attract potential employers shows their enthusiasm for wanting to become professional pharmacy technicians.” Schenkemafter also commented this event “gave the students an opportunity to practice their interviewing skills in a more relaxed environment. It also allowed them to network very early on with employers in the field.”

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Students hired at Career Expo

Sullivan University’s Career Services department held their bi-annual Career Expo during the Fall 2013 quarter with 53 employers and nearly 130 students and alumni in attendance. The Career Expo was met with great success as employers from industries covering every program field offered within Sullivan University were in attendance such as: PharMerica, Horseshoe Casino, Time Warner Cable, Texas Roadhouse, and GeekSquad to name a few. Employers were overheard raving about the quantity and quality of students and alumni that attended the Expo. Many students were interviewed on the spot for positions as they had the opportunity to network with recruiters and Human Resources managers. To date 21 students/alumni have been interviewed for available positions as a result of the Career Expo and seven have been hired. At the Expo hiring managers were able to discuss opportunities before they were even posted to the general public.

Save the date

Plans are already in the works for the Spring Career Expo on April 24. Be one of the first to know about upcoming events, find and ‘like’ Sullivan University Career Services – Louisville on Facebook.

Left Aryka Gathright with Ullka and Anne Gresham, pharmacy directors and owners of Doc Lambert Veterinary Pharmacy.

Outstanding program

Sullivan offers a 12-month diploma program and an 18-month associate degree. Students learn about medications, pharmacy calculations, filling prescriptions, and how to make medication from scratch. Pharmacy Technicians have unlimited amount of areas they can work in and include community hospital, long-term care, nuclear, veterinary, office management, insurance companies, pharmacy technology, and for working for drug manufacturers.

"My favorite part was having the opportunity to talk with a variety of employers. It also allowed us to think outside of our comfort zone and gave us practice with presentation, it was a great experience!”

ARYKA GATHRIGHT

Right, Kayla Barmore and Rita Aide Pharmaceutical Manager, Dr. Kristin Smith, 2011 graduate from the Sullivan University College of Pharmacy Class of 2011, with Rita Aide Store Manager Holly Hagerty. Dr. Kristin explained that she was motivated to attend the event and enjoyed the positive and educational atmosphere of Sullivan University Career Services students. “This is a fantastic event and I hope that it continues to grow,” she stated.

"My favorite part was having the opportunity to talk with a variety of employers. It also allowed us to think outside of our comfort zone and gave us practice with presentation, it was a great experience!”

ARYKA GATHRIGHT

"The students showed so much excitement and passion . . . I was happy to help them understand the pharmacy careers available in veterinary medicine; I look forward to hiring Sullivan graduates.”

ANNE GRESHAM

"[T]he favorite part was to talk face to face with hiring managers about career opportunities. It allowed me to get my feet in the door and get my name out there . . . it really opened my eyes to the different career opportunities for Pharmacy Technicians.”

KAYLA BARMORE

"The Reverse Career Fair was the perfect opportunity to interact with employers and allow me to network very early on.”

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