Students, alumni and employers agree: Sullivan's Career Expo is great!

Sullivan University’s Spring Career Expo was a resounding success. Students, recent graduates and alumni were eager for the opportunity to network and discuss career options with the more than 50 local, regional and national employers who attended. Career Services’ bi-annual event, provided more than 120 attendees with the chance to learn about, and interview for, positions with some great companies. From Chase Bank and Texas Roadhouse, to PharmaCare and Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, employers with positions for nearly every Sullivan University degree program were present.

Event received rave reviews

Graduates were overheard saying that they were “…impressed with the companies that where there,” and “This was the best job fair I’ve been to!” It wasn’t just the students and graduates who were impressed; the employers were very pleased with the turnout. One employer noted that “the quality of candidates was exceptional. I think we have met with several potential hires already.” Interviews were conducted on-site, and in the days following the event. Companies such as The Brown Hotel, French lick Resort, and Hyatt-Regency Hotels all have been in contact with several individuals who have interviewed for open roles. To date, the Crowne Plaza and Seabach Hilton Louisville have both confirmed hiring two Sullivan graduates and students as a result of the Expo.

All encompassing event

Success spread far beyond the hospitality industry as well. Employers including Total Quality Logistics, Claims Review Corporation, and Northwestern Mutual all have confirmed that graduates and alumni from the Expo have interviewed for positions related to the day.

Save the date

Even though the Expo has come and gone, the momentum is still there, the connections are still fresh, and the networking continues. Work for the Fall 2013 Career Expo, scheduled for October 25, has already begun, and it will follow suit from past events by offering the best networking opportunities in almost every industry in the workforce. Make plans to attend and remember Career Services can assist you with résumé and cover letter critiques.

New Director of Career Services

Samuel Mannino, Ill is the new Director of Career Services for the Louisville campus. He previously served as Director of Career Services at Sullivan College of Technology and Design (SCTD). Mr. Mannino brings a record of success at SCTD and a background in education and workforce development to his new role. As a result of various managerial roles at Greater Louisville, Inc., he coordinated many aspects of the HIRE Education Forum as well as meetings, activities and projects for the Graduates! Greater Louisville program. Mannino also has partnered with several internal constituencies to assist with strategic planning and the implementation of programs such as the Valdex validation process, the online graduation application, the graduate seminar and others.

He holds a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Kentucky and will complete his Master’s Degree in Human Resource Leadership from Sullivan University in June. He is excited of course about the chance to broaden my knowledge and improve my skills is right up my alley.”

Graduation Spring 2013

Master's degree students received their hoods prior to commencement, stopping to shake hands with President Glenn Sullivan and Dr. Jay Marc, as they left to assemble with the rest of the graduates.

Sullivan’s Spring 2013 graduation was held at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky; more than 4,200 graduates, family and guests from Sullivan’s campuses in Louisville, Lexington and Fort Knox attended.

Teresa Daniel, Dean & Professor, Human Resource Leadership Programs gave an eloquent and humorous commencement address. She shared the story of her career path and gave the graduates profound pieces of advice that she “earned the hard way.” She told the graduates that it is important to live a balanced life; that work is what you do, it is not who you are; that you can have it all, just not all at the same time and that it is important to share success to make the world a better place.

As the graduates, now armed with confidence to pursue their career dreams, crossed the stage to receive certificates, diplomas, associate, bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Chancellor Sullivan, cameras flashed as families and friends cheered. Sullivan’s graduations are unique. Rather than graduating in May like most other collegiate institutions, students graduate from Sullivan every January, March, June and September. The university holds two formal commencements in April and October. Sullivan’s 2013 Fall graduation is October 12th, at 9am, also at Southeast.

Below, Bradley DuBreck is now a believer in The Sullivan University System! He earned two associate degrees: Computer Network Administration in 2007, and Information Systems Security in 2008 from Sullivan College of Technology and Design (formerly Louisville Tech). At Sullivan University, he earned his Bachelor’s in Information Technology in 2011, at graduation received his Master’s in Information Technology degree and is “considering” continuing for his doctorate.

Josh Roller and Paul Hogan from Chase Bank discuss employment opportunities with Maseed Ghazi, a 2012 Master’s in Business Administration graduate.

Ed Fallon is one of the alumni who returned to this year’s Career Fair looking to hire fellow alumni or soon-to-be graduates. Ed earned his Bachelor’s in Business Administration with a concentration in Management in 2001. The Herald had an opportunity to talk with Ed about his Sullivan experience and his career at Park Community Federal Credit Union. A portion of that interview is below.

Why did you choose Sullivan? “I chose Sullivan because I needed to finish my degree and to have the upper hand when it came to my current and future employment. Sullivan took all of my previous classes that I had taken at other universities and put me on the right track to finish my degree.”

Did you receive your position with Park Community as a result of a Career Expo? “When the Career Expo was held, I was finishing up my degree as a full time student since being eliminated from my previous employment of 12 years. I attended the Career Expo and, with the encouragement from the placement office at Sullivan, took the lead to speak with an HR representative with Brown and Williamson. The contact changed my life. Had I not had the opportunity to speak with the HR representative I would not be in the position I hold today. They hired several individuals with degrees and Sullivan made it happen after my employment with Brown and Williamson Credit Union, the parent company left the area, and we merged with Park Community Federal Credit Union. I was then given the opportunity to become branch manager and now I am the branch manager of the Park Community Highlands Branch. I have been in this position for almost 6 years. I am very grateful to Sullivan and Career Services that helped me to be successful in my career.”

What’s it like to return as an employer? “It is really great to have this opportunity to share my past experience and triumphs with current students. I think that it helped them to know that I was once in their shoes and they are building a foundation for their future that no one can take away. Their time and efforts will pay off by getting an education and degree. It will put them in a better position when an employer has more than one candidate. We met some really great people and contacts at this event and we look forward to the next opportunity.”

Nicole Godino, Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs with Ed Fallon, Class of 2001.

Professional Development class gives students an edge

The Career Services in Louisville teaches a Professional Development class to culinary and catering students that are in their second and third quarters. Career Specialist Mary Orr and Melissa Shookley discussed résumés, interviewing skills, the importance of working while in school and how to market themselves. Guest chefs are invited on campus to speak about their experience, tips for their future and conduct a question and answer session. Rising star is guest chef speaker.

Class of 2005, Executive Chef Bobby Benjamin of La Coop Bistro À Vins restaurant spoke at two Professional Development sessions. Chef Benjamin has been just recently been ranked as one of the top chefs in America in the recent Best Chefs America Book that published this year. He has a true passion of teaching young culinarian’s professionalism, the importance of re- training of the industry and food, and the passion that it takes to become successful. More students may also have the unique opportunity to hear his presentation. Chef Benjamin hopes to partner with Sullivan and be a mentor to future culinary and catering graduates.

Josh Roller and Paul Hogan from Chase Bank discuss employment opportunities with Maseed Ghazi, a 2012 Master’s in Business Administration graduate.

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