SUMMERTIME NETWORKING

SUMMERTIME AND THE LIVING IS EASY....

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SUMMER VACATION

Summer and the Competitive Edge

It is never too early or too late to start developing transferable skills sought by employers, or to gain experiences that will enhance your resume and give you the edge in today’s economy. With the end of the Spring semester approaching, think about ways the summer can be used to explore a career, gain valuable work skills and build a resume.

Internships are an opportunity to explore a career, gain professional skills, and develop a network that will be essential in finding a job after graduation. The structure of internships varies: they may be paid or unpaid, for academic credit or not, or part-time or full-time opportunities. Whether completed during the summer or academic year, internships are a valuable form of experiential learning which enhances a student’s academic experiences. Internships are located by speaking with your faculty advisor, directly contacting employers in your local area or using the internet sites recommended on the Academic and Career Advising Career Links webpage at http://www.keene.edu/aca/internet.cfm.

A summer job, whether or not related to future career plans, is a great way to gain the transferable skills employers are seeking in recent graduates: interpersonal skills; verbal and written communication skills; flexibility and adaptability; motivation and initiative; being a team player; problem solving skills; strong work ethic; organizational skills; analytical skills; and honesty and integrity. Be sure to reflect upon how your summer job is fostering each of these skills.

Volunteering is another approach to developing professional and transferable skills, and to building a network that will provide connections to the job market. Consider your career interests and locate volunteer opportunities which allow you to gain experience related to those careers. A student interested in graphic design could volunteer to develop a poster for an upcoming event at the local animal shelter. Another student interested in teaching could volunteer to be a tutor at a summer school program. The opportunities are limitless – you just need to think creatively and make the effort to research and locate opportunities.

Don’t let the summer go to waste! Make the most of the break from classes and become the student with the edge in today’s competitive job market. Each of the summer experiences mentioned above can be used to enhance your resume as you approach graduation.

Considering a Summer Class?

Are you thinking about taking a class at home this summer? Academic and Career Advising can help! Perhaps there is a course you dropped this past year and you would like to make up the credits or maybe you know you will be very busy next fall and getting ahead of your credits might lighten your course load in the fall. We are happy to help you choose the best course to transfer back to Keene State College and even help you choose the best local college to take a course.

Transferring in a course from another institution can be very easy but often students don’t realize there are a few things to consider before taking that class. One the first things to consider is, exactly what course do you need? Which courses do we not recommend you take?

If you are a New Hampshire resident check out NHTransfer.org. This is a terrific tool to identify courses at your local New Hampshire community college that will meet requirements at Keene State. Jen Drake-Deese and Phoebe Price, in ACA, work one on one with students on transfer related matters. Simply stop ACA or call 358-2500 or set-up an appointment with either one of us. We look forward to meeting with you and helping you to get a leg up this summer.

Networking is a key element for successful transition from college to the professional world. It helps students: explore majors and careers; get leads on job and internship opportunities; and identify industry trends. It is never too soon to start the networking process. Many people are intimidated by networking not realizing we do it every day when we talk to friends, co-workers, even that person in line at the grocery store. Our best networks are often through people we already know. Here are some easy ways for you to start networking this summer:

Conduct Informational Interviews - Informational interviews are an opportunity to gain information and advice on career fields or job search strategies through one-on-one conversations with individuals working in a particular field. To learn more about informational interviewing go to: http://www.keene.edu/academics/aca/career/interview/informational/. Create a LinkedIn Account (www.linkedin.com) - LinkedIn is a social network that allows members to connect with individuals, companies and professional groups. Through LinkedIn a student builds a professional network, gains information on career paths, learns about job opportunities and follows organizations. All KSC students and alumni are encouraged to join the “KSC Student and Alumni Career Network” on LinkedIn. Join Professional Associations – Every industry has a professional organization which allows members to network at meetings, events, conferences and online. Attending meetings of local, state or regional chapters are a great opportunity to develop networks that will be helpful with career exploration and job search.
Jeff will be graduating in May with a BA in Psychology and an Associate's degree in Substance Abuse and Prevention. Jeff has been involved in numerous and diverse pursuits during his time at Keene State. He has worked with Academic and Career Advising for four years. He was an RA for first and second year students and a representative on Student Government. With Dr. Linda Baker as his mentor, Jeff was instrumental in bringing restorative practices to Residential Life and he is currently interning with the City of Keene for Youth Services in the court diversion program. After graduation Jeff hopes to find a job helping “at-risk” adolescents with behavioral therapy before he returns to graduate school for a master’s degree in school counseling. Jeff urges, “Do the thing that scares you the most. You may enjoy it more than you think.”

As this newsletter goes to press, Marc Young is receiving an award at the annual conference of the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) in St. Louis, MO for his excellence in the field of future Physical Education professionals. Earlier in March, Marc was one of two college students recognized by the NHAHPERD organization as a Physical Education professional in the state of New Hampshire after having been nominated as an Outstanding Future Professional of Keene State College by faculty. Marc will graduate in May with a BS in Physical Education Teacher certification. He was an Orientation leader for three years working closely with incoming physical education and athletic training majors. Marc is currently researching and exploring PE positions at any age; elementary, middle school and high school.

Click on these video links to learn more from students about how they have enhanced their KSC experience by getting connected.

Learn how Kelly’s trip to Cuba with the honors program helped shape her KSC experience.

Learn how Mackenzie enhanced her educational experience through volunteer work in the local community.
MAKE YOUR SUMMER COUNT!

Now that winter is over, it’s time to think spring and summer! Summer is a great time to gain valuable experience in your career while enjoying a change of scenery and pace. The following is a sampling of summer job and internship opportunities posted on JobWISE, KSC’s electronic job board:

⇒ Sailing Instructors, Waterskiing and Wake Boarding Instructors, Camp Winadu
⇒ Environmental, Health and Safety Specialist Internship, B/E Aerospace
⇒ Photographers, Filmmakers, Media Artists, Cooks, Housekeeping, Maine Media Workshops
⇒ Student Trainee JFK Presidential Library
⇒ Architectural Intern, Kitchen and Associates
⇒ Policy and Technology Internship, Keene Housing
⇒ Summer Undergraduate Internship in Museum Education, Historic Deerfield, Inc.
⇒ Sales Management Summer 2014 Internship, Enterprise Rent-a-Car

At this writing, there are over 400 job and internship opportunities posted on JobWISE with new opportunities posted each week. Check out JobWISE at www.keene/aca/job_search.cfm. For additional information, contact Academic and Career Advising at aca@keene.edu.

GAIN MOMENTUM THIS SUMMER!

Summer Momentum
May 19 through June 26, 2014
Freshman and Sophomores
Do you need to catch up on course work?
Do you want to raise your GPA?
Do you want to get ahead in school and develop new connections?
Summer Momentum might be for you.

Apply Today
Contact:
Dr. Brian Kanouse
bkanouse@keene.edu