

Labour Market Report

Centre for Skilled and Internationally Trained Professionals



Centre Update

On October 25, the Centre hosted its annual Success and Networking Event, which saw many employed clients return to share stories about their job search experience, network, and celebrate their success. A wide range of occupations were represented, including engineering, information technology, forestry, agrolgy, human resources, and social work.

Clients anchored their stories on work search strategies that brought results to them – from cold calling persistence to networking at community events to seizing volunteer positions as a stepping stone to professional opportunities. Their emphasis on going “outside the box” and utilizing techniques beyond simply responding to newspaper and internet advertisements is a notable point of encouragement to clients still seeking work in their field: do research companies that may offer work in your specialization; do cold call those companies; do follow-up; and most importantly, have confidence in your skills and abilities.

Informational Interviews: Another Networking Tool

As attested by the clients who attended the success panel, developing a professional network here in Canada is very important. But for those without extensive connections here, or those who are new to Canada, how can such a web of contacts be developed?

Setting up informational interviews with professionals in the job seeker’s target field is one way to not only gain an understanding of the industry and what the job entails here in Canada, but also to commence a relationship with someone who may in the future be able to advocate for you on your behalf.

Before the appointment, the job seeker should conduct some research about the company, in a manner very similar to preparing for a job interview. The questions should reflect back on this research,

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asking for specifics about, for example, upcoming projects or expansion plans in the works, tools and software that the company may employ, or industry outlook and directions the company is heading in.

The key is to not ask for a job directly, and really to find out more about the company and whether or not it is the right place for someone with your background and skills. Remember that although the company itself may not have positions open, the person you are speaking to may know of other companies seeking to hire experienced individuals with your background, so staying professional and positive is vital.

If you are still unsure of how to conduct an informational interview, and would like some practice, please sign up for the Informational Interviews workshop on November 19.

Special Thanks

The Centre would like to offer their thanks to:

- Sergio Manrique, Loan Administrator from the Immigrant Access Fund; Delia Filipescu, Multicultural Librarian from Mill Woods Edmonton Public Library; and representatives from Student Legal Services for participating in the Centre’s Community Services Information Day, providing valuable knowledge about resources available to clients.
- Drs. Liban Farah and Hossein Dashti for sharing examination preparation materials with fellow IMGs.
- Dr. Alireza Sameny for providing advice and guidance in developing a residency interview preparation workshop for Bredin’s IMGs.
- All of the Centre’s employed clients who attended our annual success panel event and shared their insights and experiences with current clients.

November 2007

Requests for our next newsletter can be forwarded to sharon.yeo@bredin.ab.ca

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Occupational Specific Group Meetings & Centre Events

- IMG Study Group Meetings*: See Anna
- IEV Study Group Meeting*: See Echo

- November 3, 10am-12pm: Pharmacy Licensure Forum
- November 3, 2-4pm: Veterinary Sciences Licensure Forum
- November 5, 1-4pm: Working in Canada workshop (contracts, pay, etc.)
- November 9, 1-3pm: Culture in the Workplace workshop
- November 19, 9am-12pm: Informational Interviews workshop
- November 23, 10am-12pm: APEGGA Licensure information session

- November 12 – Centre closed in lieu of Remembrance Day

- **November 1-8, Career Forums**: various dates and venues at the University of Alberta – Company information sessions hosted by Career and Placement Services, check http://www.ualberta.ca/CAPS/CaPS_a5-1-1.html for updated listings (ticket prices vary)

- **November 15-29, Employer Information Sessions**: various dates and venues at the University of Alberta – free Company information sessions hosted by Career and Placement Services, check http://www.ualberta.ca/CAPS/CaPS_a9info.html for updated listings

- **November 17, 11am-3pm, Pharmacy Career Fair** (Dinwoodie Lounge, 2-000 Students' Union Building, University of Alberta): 40 employers present, free admission, check http://www.ualberta.ca/CAPS/CaPS_a3-1-6.html for a list of exhibitors

Monthly Reflection



“I know the price of success: dedication, hard work, and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen.”

-Frank Lloyd Wright

November Events

Remember to pick up a copy of the free and low-cost calendar of events happening in and around the city!