Getting Your Student Off the Family Payroll

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Class of 2006 Statistics:

- 24.21% Graduate school
- 69.47% Employed
- 1.05% Other
- 5.26% Unemployed

- 78.84% response rate - Six-Month Out Survey
Class of 2006 Statistics

Looking at the past 5 years, Class of ’06:

• Highest employment rate
• Highest unemployment rate
• Lowest graduate study
Class of 2006

• More students are waiting a year or more to go to graduate school
  • This is not just a “Knox thing” – it is a nationwide trend
Some Perspective

- Jobs can be in a field different than academic major
- 1st job lasts an average of 18 months
- 10 years after graduation:
  - 72% will have had 3 or more jobs
  - 52% will have had at least 1 major career change

-- National Association of Colleges and Employers
What Do Employers Want?

*Hint: It’s not necessarily a high GPA*
What Do Employers Want?

1. Communication skills
2. Honesty/Integrity
3. Interpersonal skills (relates well to others)
4. Motivation/Initiative
5. Strong work ethic
6. Teamwork skills

-- NACE Job Outlook 2007
What Do Employers Want?

7. Computer skills
8. Analytical skills
9. Flexibility/adaptability
10. Detail-oriented
11. Organizational skills
12. Leadership skills
What About GPA?

- GPA was ranked only 18th out of 21 attributes employers want
  - For most positions, a 3.0 is good enough to get a potential employee past the first cut
Career Success

• Skills and character determine career success
• A college degree guarantees neither
• Hard to change character; instead, we focus on skills
Important Skills & How to Get Them

Resident Advisor position

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Work Ethic
Important Skills & How to Get Them

Reporter for TKS
- Illustrates evidence of writing skills

Steady record of community service
- Shows caring for others
Important Skills & How to Get Them

Telephone sales or survey job
- Shows communication skills
- Ability to deal with rejection
Important Skills & How to Get Them

Research project with professor
- Higher level analytical skills
- Information gathering
Important Skills & How to Get Them

Courses that emphasize writing and team projects

- Builds strong writing skills
- Ability to work well with others (interpersonal skills)
Important Skills & How to Get Them

Treasurer for a student organization

• Money management
• Attention to detail
• Leadership skills
Important Skills & How to Get Them

High-quality summer internships

• Shows they’ve already been “hired”
• They have had the opportunity to further develop workplace skills
What the Career Center Can Do for Your Student

• Individual counseling and testing
• Mock interviewing
• Library resources
• Electronic resources
• Workshops
• Credential files
• Career and graduate school fairs
Workshop Sessions

- Orientation to the Center
- Writing resumes and cover letters
- Preparing for graduate school
- Internships: A Bridge to Your Future
- “I’ve declared my major...now what?”
Workshop Sessions

- Attending and benefiting from job fairs
- Interview skills
- Job search strategies
- Fall Institute workshops
Life After Knox Workshop

- Tips for the new professional
- Managing credit, creating (and sticking to) a budget
- Your first apartment
- Insurance matters
Life After Knox

Speakers discuss:

- Making your own way
- What you should be thinking about
- Establishing your supports: financial, emotional, social, etc.
Carlin Career Development Forum

- February 25-26, 2008 (tentative)
- Evening Panel discussion
  - Panelists’ career paths
  - Advice to students
  - Surprises and pitfalls along the way
- Networking lunch with speakers
Organized Recruitment Efforts

- Summer job and internship fair
- Chicago internship fair
- CareerFest
- Fall Interview Day
- TeacherFest
Graduate School Fairs

- Graduate and Professional School Fair (held on campus early fall term)
- University of Illinois at Chicago graduate school fair
Individualized Plans

For students job searching outside of the region:

- Alumni networking
- Job search engines
- Focus on companies at job fairs with non-Midwest locations
What Students Can Do

- Learn what alums are doing with their majors
- Build strong job search skills
- Be an active player in their job search
- Career Center can play a supporting role in helping develop needed skills
What Parents Can Do

- Encourage your student to visit the career center
- Advise your student to write a resume early on
- Challenge your student to become “occupationally literate”
- Encourage them to build leadership skills
What Parents Can Do

• Allow your student to make the decision
  • Rather than major in something “practical,” follow own interests and passions
• Emphasize the importance of internships
• Encourage extracurricular involvement
What Parents Can Do

- Expose your student to the world of work
- Teach the value of networking
What Parents Can Do

• Encourage your student to attend career talks:
  • Individual alumni talks
  • Seminar in Chemistry
  • Carlin Career Development Forum
Most Importantly…

- Listen to your student
- Advise him or her
- Be supportive
Questions

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