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Jobless, hopeless, but searching

By Daniel Kelly

TECHNEWS WRITER

With the Career Fair just around the corner, students are scrambling to perfect their résumés to ensure that they can secure the positions they are applying for. As a member of the Career Management Center Student Advisory Board, I thought it would be best to share some of the suggestions that the Career Management Center has shared with me to improve your chances as much as possible at the Career Fair this upcoming Thursday. Unfortunately, there is no single format of the résumé that will guarantee your acceptance to every single job, but I will share some of the best suggestions that have been gathered through years of experience and research.

Objective: While it has been debated back and forth for years about the relevance of the Objective in the résumé, it has once again emerged as a predominant factor in whether or not you will get that job that you are applying for. The Objective should be included at the top of your résumé and state your intentions behind submitting it. It is imperative that you include within your Objective the specific job that you are applying for as well as the specific company where you are hoping to work. BEGINNER'S WARNING: If you distribute the 'standard' résumé to every company, they will simply glaze over it without giving you a second chance. It is essential to personalize your résumés to the company to improve your chances at success.

"I am applying for a position within XYZ Company as an ABC. Upon acquisition of ABC position, I will be able to demonstrate my skills in 123"

After the Objective comes the tricky part

Unfortunately, each company that will be at the Career Fair will be looking for different prerequisites that you, the candidate, have fulfilled. While Graduate Schools will look mostly at your grade point average and the quality of your academic work, companies will mainly focus on your campus involvement and your interpersonal skills as your differen-

tiating factors. When a Bachelor's Degree was once considered that differentiating factor, companies are more so interested in your past work experience and experience that you can bring to the company through various student organizations. Thankfully, the list of experiences that these companies are looking for can be found on their websites listed under those job openings on their 'career' pages.

Whether it is for more technically based positions or more customer service oriented positions, companies are looking for the most relevant information first. That most relevant information is your list of skills. If you are trained in PHP, Mat-Lab, AutoCAD, SPS, or team leadership, this is your time to include that information and give brief details of how you learned that skill as well as positive results that you have achieved through holding this skill. Include these in a bullet point form that is concise and highlights the most important features that you are hoping to portray.

Following your list of skills, it is most important to include your past work experience. It is of course not relevant to include a list of everything that you have ever done, so you want to limit this section to your three most relevant job experiences. As students, we may not always have the luxury to include past job experience so it is also relevant to include work experience in different student organizations or different roles that you have filled in various groups throughout your academic career.

Based on the position that you are applying for, your academic experience will either precede your work experience or follow it. Detailed within your academic experience, you want to highlight the various degrees that you may have acquired and the relevant courses you have taken. You will want to place emphasis on the experiences that you have gained through your classes and the relevant skills that you have acquired. It does not matter if you are a Freshman applying for your first internship or a Senior hoping to obtain a position as a full time employee, companies are looking for a few specific reasons to hire you above the rest of the applicants.

The final topic you want to include

in your résumé is your list of references. If you are applying for a job where you have connections or know people within the industry who can vouch for your expertise, it would be beneficial to list two or three references. However, if you are venturing into a new field where your references may not be as widely known or recognized, it would be a waste of valuable space to include them. BEGINNER'S WARNING: The worst thing you can do on an application is list your references as "will be available on request". You want your résumé to be holistic view of who you are as an applicant and you want to limit the amount of work done by the company.

While it may be difficult to decide what to include within your résumé and what to exclude, companies have made it easier on the applicant by detailing the skills they are looking for within their job description on their website. By analyzing the keywords that are highlighted within these positions and including them within your résumé, you will greatly increase your chances of standing out within the piles of applications. Modern companies are processing the majority of applications received through an automatic résumé reviewing software which will give you a grade bases on the amount of keywords that you include within your résumé.

There is no standard format for résumés for the various organizations and companies that will be attending the Career Fair. They are all looking for different sorts of information and in different layouts, but luckily all that information can be found on that company's website. We at the Career Management Center strongly encourage all of you to either research proper résumé formatting within your industry or visit the Career Management Center within the next several days to perfect your résumé. The Career Management Center, which is located in the Northeast corner of the HUB, will be holding résumé critiques from 9am until 9pm Monday through Wednesday of this week to help improve your chances of finding the perfect job.

I wish you the best of luck this upcoming week and for whatever the future may hold.

TechNews turns a page

Tell us what you want in your student newspaper!

By Ryan Kamphuis

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Your voice. Your newspaper. Your TechNews.

Since 1928, TechNews has been providing you up-to-date news on campus happenings, current events, the local art scene, and much more. As we enter the second decade of the 21st century, both this university and this newspaper are making big steps to embrace the new direction that journalism is taking and make it easier than ever to keep yourself informed.

I'm proud to announce that with the hiring of our new IT Manager, Pranava Teja Surukuchi, our website, TechNewsIIT.com, is now being updated weekly. The website will have all of our articles, and provides all the info you need to submit content to TechNews, discuss articles with your peers, and learn more about IIT.

In addition to our updated website, TechNews is preparing to embrace our increasingly mobile world. We are currently in the process of developing mobile applications for the iOS and Android platforms that will allow you to read articles and download entire issues of TechNews to your smartphone or tablet. We are still in the formative stages of developing these apps, and any suggestions on what features these apps should have would be greatly appreciated.

The changes that TechNews are not just related to the internet and technology. The general philosophy of TechNews is also changing. It is the opinion of TechNews that a strong campus newspaper is essential to creating a strong campus community.

To do this, we are working to make TechNews more open and a student forum. We want to make it easier for individuals and organizations to contribute to TechNews, and encourage people to use TechNews as a platform to inform the IIT community on the progress and actions of their organizations.

TechNews shouldn't be a stuffy newspaper where only the elite and trained can contribute. TechNews should be a dynamic news source where everyone can contribute and learn about their community.

In the coming weeks and months, expect to see TechNews more often as we work to make these changes happen. We're working on a brand new marketing campaign that will make it clear how easy, and fun, it is to contribute to and be a part of TechNews.

Our mobile apps will be coming out soon, and we will be increasingly reaching out to other organizations to build partnerships that will benefit everyone.

TechNews is your newspaper, and we would love to hear what you want to see from your newspaper. If you have any suggestions about how to improve TechNews, comments on our vision for the future, or you would like to contribute to all this, please email me at editor@technewsiit.com. I'd love to hear what you have to say, and I'd love to work with you to make this newspaper better than ever!

CMC hosts largest career fair ever

By Gokul Butail

SGA VP OF STUDENT LIFE

The career fair is one of the most efficient and successful ways of securing an internship or a job for college students and graduates. In contrast to the conventional way of applying for a position, career fair provides applicants an opportunity to apply for multiple positions in different companies, and meet interviewers who either make hiring decisions themselves directly or refer them for further consideration, all under one roof.

The Career Management Center (CMC) at IIT has been acting as the liaison between the highly diverse talent pool of students and alumni, and employers who benefit from their expertise. Every semester CMC organizes a career fair for IIT students and alumni to provide them with an ocean of opportunities and career choices. This semester's career fair is going to be the largest IIT has ever hosted in its

history, with over 200 companies offering over 3000 jobs and internships. It will take place in Hermann Hall on February 23 from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

The author of this article met Shirlean Williams, Director of Employer Relations at IIT and cleared some of the doubts which students usually have.

1) One of the major concerns that students have before coming to a job fair is their academic performance. We have seen students saying, "Oh! I have a low GPA. Who is going to hire me?"

A good GPA might give you an edge, but companies are looking much beyond that. A company looks at your overall profile, which includes your projects, experience, leadership skills, extra-curricular activities and, of course, your personality.

2) IIT is over 40% international students. One is of the notion that international students often don't have access to many op-

portunities for them. What would you say about that?

Yes, we often hear that comment, but it is not true. CMC has been working towards giving opportunities to all IIT students, domestic or international. About half of the companies that are coming to the career fair this time hire international students and would be ready to sponsor their visa.

3) Graduating students who have not done an internship or an OPT (Optional Practical Training) during their undergraduate or graduate program sometimes feel discouraged. What do you have to say to them?

IIT has great academics, therefore they need not worry. The IPRO's in our undergraduate curriculum make our students stand apart from the students at other universities. IPRO's expose the students to real world problems and their solutions. So, students without an internship experience still have a great
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