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## CMC prepares students for annual Career Fair

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After months of work on the part of the Career Management Center, the Spring 2013 Career Fair is now upon us. Taking place this coming Thursday, February 21st from 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM in Hermann Hall, this semester's career fair will be bringing together 159 companies that will be offering over 3400 jobs, 55% of which are available to international students and alumni. Shirlean Williams, the Director of Employer Relations for the CMC, says that work on the upcoming career fair began as soon as last fall's career fair was over with, "hundreds of calls made daily to local, national, and international companies that may hire students for all of the majors represented at IIT."

While the work that went into organizing the career fair and the career fair itself this semester aren't very different than the huge career fairs that have been organized every semester over the past year, the lead-up to this semester's career fair was very different than it has been in the past. Shortly after last semester's career fair, members of the student body came forward expressing concerns over unfair and non-consistent standards being enforced regarding the dress code, especially towards women. Students talked about how the expectations of how women were dressed was judged differently by every check-in attendant, and that women were turned away from the fair for wearing flats instead of high heels. Others also mentioned that the CMC provided a rack of ties for men to use if they did not have a tie, but that no clothes were provided to women if their dress did not meet the CMC's standards. In response to this, the CMC and the Office of Student Affairs planned several events to take place before the career fair in order to, "fix this issue and change the current feelings toward our department and the career fair," said Williams.

The first of these events was a Profession Day on February 12th, where faculty and staff dressed in professional attire and wore 'Ask Me About My Outfit' stickers. The idea was to provide students with models who could share their differing ideas of what professional attire was.

Another pre-career fair event was the Dress to Impress Fashion show on February 13th. Students modeled different professional outfits on an impromptu catwalk set up in the MTCC Ballroom. After the fashion show, representatives from Men's Wearhouse and Ann Taylor were on hand to provide fashion advice and 50% off and 20% off coupons, respectively. Both stores will still extend these discounts to students who show their student ID in store.

In case a student forgets an important part of their outfit, Student Affairs will now be offering a clothes closet for all students, both male and female, for the first time. If a student needs to replace a part of their outfit in order to get into the career fair, there will now be items available for more than just the men.

Steps also are being taken to help show students how to make themselves look professional while they are dressing professional. Students from the Paul Mitchell School transformed the MTCC Welcome Center into a barber shop and gave out free haircuts to students on February 15th. On the day of the career fair, representatives from Mary Kay will be hosting free make-up sessions for women.

Lots of effort is being made to ensure that the resources exist to help all students prepare for the career fair. At the end of the day, however, the career fair isn't just about how you look and dress. Williams suggests that all students research which companies they are interested in and are attending the career fair. "If you truly want to impress a company," says Williams, "you should be able to not only ask questions about their organization, but provide passionate and insightful answers about why you are interested in working for them."

If you have any questions about the career fair or your career fair prep, walk-ins are taken at the CMC in Hermann Hall from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM and 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM Monday through Friday.



Photos by Chandranshu Singh