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# Career Development Center

A Division of Student Affairs

# N T H E W S

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 8/9

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## What the Career Development Center Can do for You

- Help pinpoint careers that suit your interest, values, and personality through **assessment testing**.
- Narrow or broaden career choices by tapping into the Career Development center's access to **resources and recruiters**.
- Open the door to opportunities and potential career fields through **internships**.



- Provide **resume and cover letter advice** and **mock interviews** designed to help you put your best foot forward.
- And much, much, more! Read below to get a better understanding of our services.

Visit the **Career Development Center** located on the 1st Floor of McDonough Hall.

The most frequent comment from seniors after using Career Counseling Services:

### "I wish I had come here sooner!"

*Can't decide on a major or need guidance on planning your future? Thinking about **changing careers**? Need a **career coach**? Need help gaining **practical work experience** in your field? Don't know how to **construct a good resume and cover letter**? Need to learn **how to interview effectively**?*

These are all services offered by the Career Development Center at Saint Joseph College. It is a place you should visit within your first semester on campus and continue to visit throughout your college career.

Research shows that 75% of freshmen will change their

major; *even if they have declared a major*. Finding the major and career choices that are the best "fit" for you is not an easy or quick process, or a decision that can be arrived at after one appointment with a career counselor. The career decision-making process takes place over time and requires a lot of thought and planning.

Our career counselors are trained professionals who will meet with you one-on-one to help you plan your career decisions through self-assessment and exploration into the world of work. The Career Center's mission is to help you find and use appropriate tools and/or resources that will enhance your

ability to find a rewarding and satisfying livelihood.

Saint Joseph College provides these career counseling services to you at no cost. One of the most frequent comments from seniors after using Career Counseling services is, "I wish I had come here sooner."

Take advantage of our free services, contact us at:

**860.231.5231 or  
careercenter@sjc.edu.**

DON'T FORGET!

# Dates to Remember

- ◆ **Sept. 24th** the **Walt Disney Professional Internship** presentations will be held at 2:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. at CCSU in the Student Center.
- ◆ **Sept. 25th** the **Central CT Career Fair** will be held at the Rentschler Field Ballroom in East Hartford from 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Sept. 25th** the **Accounting & Finance Career Night** from 5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m., will be held at the University of Hartford, Konover Campus Center's Great Room.
- ◆ **Oct. 1st** the **Accounting Career Fair** will be held at Central Connecticut State University from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Oct. 20th** the **Graduate School Fair** will be held at CCSU, Founders Hall in Davison Hall from 3:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Oct. 29th** The **Human Services Career Fair** will be held at Saint Joseph College in the Crystal Room of Mercy Hall, from 11—2 pm.
- ◆ **Nov. 1st** is the **Application Deadline** for Spring 2009 **Legislative Internships**.
- ◆ **Nov. 6th** is the **5th Annual College 2 Career Expo**, held at the Clarion Inn & Suites in East Windsor. If there is enough interest, a bus can be arranged to provide transportation. For more information, call Valerie Wilson at 231-5551.
- ◆ **Nov. 19th** the **Fall Career Center** will be held at CCSU, Alumni Hall in the Student Center, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. **Pre-register at [www.ccsu.edu/career](http://www.ccsu.edu/career)**

For more information, contact:  
**CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER**  
 at 860.231.5551

## Global Economy Demands New Skills, Report Says

The following article is a reprint from *Education Week* online. The article was published on September 10, 2008.

American students need to learn a new set of skills, including innovation and cultural competency, in order to be competitive in a global economy, says a report released today by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, which includes education organizations and high-tech companies among its members. In fact, the report argues, the United States' ability to create an education system that produces these better-prepared students is the "central economic competitiveness issue," facing the nation. The report, "21st Century Skills, Education & Competitiveness," is designed to help policymakers a tool to help

them work toward creating education, workforce development, and economic-development system that are aligned toward this goal, said Ken Kay, the partnership's president. We think that education as a tool of United States competitiveness is one of the most important issues of the coming decade.



"This is an important time for policymakers to be addressing this," Mr. Kay said. "In focusing on what outcomes your people need in the 21st century, you can align so much of your work as government and leaders around those outcomes." The partnership, based in Tucson, Ariz., is using the report to launch its vision with a set of key policy recommendations at the federal, state, and local level. The group is planning to issue a paper in mid-November with more specific policy recommendations for the next president, Mr. Kay said.

The report paints a picture of an education system in the midst of great change. Schools set up to prepare for a post-World War II, industrial era must change now to one that supports the information - service economy, the report argues.

(Continued on page 4)

## Saint Joseph College, West Hartford Connecticut on the Forefront When it Comes to the Financial Education of Women

Whether it is credit cards, personal loans, or school loans, college graduates are amassing significant amounts of debt at a soaring rate by the time of graduation. Unfortunately, many are ill equipped to make informed decisions when it comes to personal financial management. As a result, some are forced to move back home or work second jobs just to be able to meet the minimum payment on their loans. "In an effort to improve our students' knowledge of personal

finances, Saint Joseph College enrolled the entire first year class in MoneyU," said Cheryl Barnard, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students.

MoneyU, was developed as an on-line course for students by Griffin Enterprises, LLC, of Rockville, Maryland. The curriculum uses an interactive game environment geared for the young adult learner that emphasizes acquiring personal finance knowledge, developing good

practices, and avoiding financial pitfalls.

Students can move comfortably at their own pace through this 10 hour on-line course that teaches wise spending and credit card use. Additionally, the program shows students how to manage debt and save money. Students also learn about taxes, insurance, banking and planning, and how credit scores affect their future.

"Post-test scores increased almost 22% over pre-test scores, or in academic terms, grades improved from a D+ to a B. Further, to the best of our knowledge, Saint Joseph College is the first college or university in Connecticut to use MoneyU."

"Our results with this incoming class were impressive," said Barnard. "Post-test scores increased almost 22% over pre-test scores, or in academic terms, grades improved from a D+ to a B." "Further, to the best of our knowledge, Saint Joseph College is the first college or university in Connecticut to use MoneyU," says Barnard.

"Early efforts with the financial education initiative started in 2006 with

the creation of the Learning Institute for Financial Education (L.I.F.E.) center," said Stephen Seaward, Director of Career Development. "With the help and support of Gene Bruyette, Kathleen Barry Bruyette, and T.D. Bank North Charitable Foundation, we constructed a free standing self service kiosk for students to access a wide array of personal financial management

information. That effort was furthered again in April of 2008 when the college hosted its first Personal Financial Management Conference for Women. The all day program was designed to address the unique financial issues women face in their work and personal lives and to empower women with the knowledge to create a strong and prosperous financial future," said Seaward. "We have taken financial literacy to another level with MoneyU."

"We want our students to be financially self-reliant and have a plan for life after college," says Barnard. The College will continue with MoneyU as well as other programs designed to help students foster community and develop career and life skills.

## Become a Legislative Intern

As a legislative intern you will spend the spring semester assisting a Connecticut state senator or representative and will have the opportunity to be immersed in the exciting and hectic day-to-day activities taking place at Connecticut's State Capitol.

Working with your assigned legislator throughout the General Assembly's legislative session is a unique experience and a valuable

opportunity to make contacts and develop a network of personal and professional colleagues. Interning at the Capitol will not only look great on your resume but also provide you with valuable work experience and open the door for possible employment. For more information and an application, contact Valerie Wilson, Career Development Center, [vwilson@sjc.edu](mailto:vwilson@sjc.edu). Application deadline is **November 1st**.



## The Career Development Staff

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## Our Mission

The mission of the Career Development Center is to offer programs which provide all students with opportunities to identify personal interests, work based learning experiences and opportunities to explore careers of interest and resources so that students can:

- Discover their abilities
- Increase self awareness
- Meet their short term goals
- Increase their chances of accomplishing their long range goals
- Develop meaningful career plans that are compatible with their life goals

The CDC also works to support and increase the instructional capacity of the college by serving as a resource to the faculty and staff.

## Global Economy

(Continued from page 2)

From 1967 to 1997, the proportion of the U.S. gross domestic product based on information services grew to 56 percent from 36 percent, according to a University of California, Los Angeles study cited in the report.

To meet the growing demand for workers who understand the information-based economy, it says, the nation's education system must change from one that is focused on basic proficiency to one that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship and promotes the use of critical thinking skills.

But American public education has traditionally thought of critical - thinking skills as the purview of those in talented and gifted programs, while the teaching of basic skills was geared toward those on a trade track in high schools, Mr. Kay said.

Now, the focus must be on making sure all students have a broad array of skills in addition to strong grounding in core subjects, he said. "Our understanding that everyone needs to critically think and problem-solve has been heightened when you look at what success for the United States will required in the global economy," he said.

Among the chief issues to be tackled are the achievement gaps that exist between American students of different races and ethnicities, and between how top American students perform compared with students globally.

Data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress show not only wide gaps in proficiency between white students and their minority peers, but that even white students are failing to score proficient at high levels, the report says. And, American 15-years olds score in the

35th and 36th percentile on a recent global assessment of mathematics and science, respectively, among 57 nations. "We think global competency and global awareness are... one of the essential new skills. More and more businesses are requiring foreign languages and cultural competency across cultures. A higher and higher percentage of work will be done in global teams," Mr. Kay said.

