

Career



Connections

UNLV Career Services

Career Day is February 28 Direct Your Future

UNLV students and alumni can talk with employers representing a wide variety of industries at Career Day 2008. This year's event takes place on Thursday, February 28, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Thomas & Mack Center. Participants can not only talk with recruiters face-to-face during Career Day, but many organizations schedule on-campus interviews for the following day.

A current list of attending employers is available on the Career Services website at hire.unlv.edu. The list includes an overview of each organization as well as a link to each organization's website. Students and alumni can get an idea of who they want to talk with, plus conduct research of those organizations beforehand. Categories of employers include:

- business
- engineering/technical
- hospitality
- government/non-profit/health sciences/other

Many employers hire for a wide variety of positions, so students in all disciplines are encouraged to attend. For example, Bally Technologies is classified in the engineering/technical category, but looks at English majors for their technical writing positions and art majors for their graphic artist positions. A representative may not be recruiting for every available position in his or her organization, but may be willing to pass on a student's resume to the appropriate contact.

Please encourage your students to take advantage of this opportunity to advance towards their career goals. Attending Career Day can be integrated into a syllabus as a required assignment or for extra credit. Help us make this the best Career Day yet.



On-Campus Recruiting is February 19-April 30

Students can submit their resumes for consideration by employers who will be conducting interviews on campus. Interviews will be held at Career Services, located in room 301 of the Student Services Complex (SSC). Students see a current list of participating employers, post their resumes, and sign up for interviews at hire.unlv.edu. New employers are added to the on-campus recruiting program throughout the semester, so students are encouraged to check our website on a regular basis.

Career Services Unveils a New Website

Career Services connects with multiple constituencies, including students, alumni, employers, faculty, staff and parents, and our website is critical in that process. The homepage received over 110,000 hits this past calendar year, which is the highest in its history. Eileen McGarry, executive director of Career Services, stated, "Our Employer Career Advisory Council members and student leaders told us it was time to launch a new site and have provided input throughout the process." Through our website, faculty and staff can access career outcomes data on students in each college; submit a classroom presentation request; post a department's on-campus work study job, internship, or graduate assistantship; see who is participating in on-campus recruiting and career fairs; refer an employer looking to hire a UNLV student or graduate; or access the Career Advisory Council's Speakers Bureau to bring an industry expert to the classroom. Career Services' website can be accessed at hire.unlv.edu.

UNLV Career Services
Student Services Complex (SSC) 301
702-895-3495
hire.unlv.edu

Employer Spotlight

Harrah's Entertainment

Harrah's Entertainment has teamed up with UNLV Career Services in a major way, by becoming our first platinum partner and joining the Career Advisory Council. Chris Cappas is vice president of employment & training for the company's Las Vegas region, and will represent Harrah's at future council meetings. Cappas has been with Harrah's since 1999, and has worked in employment and training as well as operations. As the company grew, so did her roles and responsibilities. When Harrah's acquired Caesars Entertainment, it resulted in a combining of all of the employment and training functions from all of the Las Vegas properties into one operation. Cappas was then promoted to her current position.

Harrah's Entertainment properties in Las Vegas include Bally's, Caesars Palace, Flamingo, Harrah's, Paris, Rio, Imperial Palace, and Bill's Gambling Hall & Saloon. Cappas states, "We now oversee 28,000 employees in this region. My roles include attracting new applicants to our website, leveraging our best in the market employment center, and ensuring through our training that we're giving our new employees the tools to be successful in their present positions." Cappas is excited about the connection with UNLV Career Services and what it means for her and the company. "It's been a great experience for me to take a few steps back into the college environment and understand the students' perspectives. This partnership is important because of the wide range of positions that we can offer to UNLV students and alumni." There is already a strong UNLV presence at Harrah's from which to build on, including 62 current students and 170 alumni employed in Las Vegas. Cappas adds, "We are the largest gaming operator in the world. We have 40 properties in the United States and are in the process of expanding overseas. We feel we can be successful because we now have the programs in place, we know exactly what we want to do, and we can offer students something that they can't find anywhere else. We want to make sure it's a lasting relationship with UNLV that we build year over year."



The variety of career entry points at Harrah's can translate into rewarding and upward paths for UNLV graduates. Two such examples are in Cappas' department. Chris Smith is a 1998 hospitality graduate and joined the company in 2000, opening up Harrah's Rincon in San Diego. "He was able to build his experience in a lot of different areas," says Cappas. Looking for new challenges, Smith moved to Las Vegas and became the employment center manager. Within a year, he has moved up to become the director of training. Cappas adds, "He's really been able to provide his expertise not only through the UNLV hospitality program but also put it into use when he graduated." Suzana Kotur, a 2002 UNLV graduate, is back at the university working towards her master's in music degree. She started with Harrah's in 2006 as a temporary cage cashier at the World Series of Poker, and stood out to Cappas. "We hired her as an employment specialist because she had a great personality. She loved to talk to people and sell the company. Within eight months, she has become a human resources information systems manager, and manages the front counter and the data input team."

Harrah's has committed to a variety of programs and events for the spring semester, including mock interview days at their employment center, the Internship and Summer Job Fair, Career Day, and Harrah's INNOVATION Week, which is a new campus initiative and will take place March 3-7. Cappas looks forward to a long relationship with UNLV and knows that it truly is a campus-wide relationship. "We have everything from front desk to finance to IT to convention sales. There are so many avenues with this large of a company that we basically have something for everyone."

Story OF SUCCESS

Students Make the Most of Career Services

A hardhat is now included in Neil Umali's attire, as the senior business administration management major carves his career path as an intern with Southland Industries. Umali was able to make the connection with Southland by visiting Career Services. "I first heard about the office through Career Day. I attended last year as a junior and thought that this event was really a good opportunity for me to get out there to see many different employers." Last summer, Umali took a business writing class, which drove him to stop by the office for a resume critique. "I wanted to make sure my resume was thorough and that it defined what I wanted to do after I graduated." During that resume critique session, Umali expressed his interest in the construction management field. Career Services was then able to connect him to Southland Industries.

Umali sees his internship as a tremendous opportunity for his career development. "I left the military in 2005 and it was hard for me to transition to the civilian world, having to seek out employers. I know what I'm capable of and what my experience has given me. What I really want to do is to be in the construction business." Umali has found a good fit with Southland, and has taken on many responsibilities. "I came in with some experience, but they have helped me further develop. They have given me all the tools that I need. I work with good people – it was a good match for me." His activities include talking to vendors, getting submittals, and calculating budgets. He appreciates being given these responsibilities, but also being included in the company's activities, stating, "They have made me a part of their family."

Reflecting on how far he has come since starting at UNLV, Umali added, "I came to UNLV in 2005, not knowing how things were going to pan out for my future. I'm leaving this semester with a sense of direction of where I'm heading. That's one big thing off of my shoulders."

Variety of pre Career Day Activities Offered

Several workshops and events are available to help students prepare for Career Day. Consider making these activities a part of your syllabus as well.

Workshops

Networking for Career Success

February 7, 3-4 p.m.
Student Union 205

Applying for a Job or Internship Online...the Right Way

February 13, noon-1 p.m.
Student Services Complex 317

Resume Writing, Interviewing, and Dressing for Success

February 13, 3-4:30 p.m.
Student Union 219

Top 10 List for Interview Success

February 20, 11 a.m.-noon
Lied Library, Pioche Room

Events

Resume Review Day

February 20, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Beam Hall Atrium

Hospitality Employer Panel

February 20, 11 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
Wright Hall C148

Liberal Arts Employer Panel

February 25, 4:30-6 p.m.
Marjorie Barrick Museum

Ongoing Services

Walk-in Hours for Resume Critiques
Mondays and Tuesdays 9-11 a.m.
Wednesdays and Thursdays 1-3 p.m.

DISCOVER Groups

This computerized career assessment profiles students' interests, abilities, and values.

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator

Personality assessments are available through individual counseling appointments.

Other Services

UNLV CareerLink online recruiting system
Career Counseling by appointment
Video-taped Mock Interviews
Backpacks to Briefcases Career Planning Handbook
Career Resource Center

Experiential Learning: The Interview

By Paul Carpino, employer outreach and internship coordinator

Jonathan Herrera is a UNLV English Major developing a career path as a technical writer. He now shares his experiential learning insight with us.

PC: Where did you intern and what was your title?

JH: I interned at Bally Technologies, Las Vegas and was designated as a technical writer.

PC: What were the best aspects of your internship and why?

JH: Simply being accepted for the internship. Because before I had the internship, I was searching throughout the internet and the city for any possible technical writing internships that were available. Being accepted as an intern at Bally Tech was to me a godsend.

PC: What was the greatest challenge of your internship and how did you overcome it?

JH: The greatest challenge I had during my internship was balancing my time to handle my internship work load and my course work. I was a full time student during my internship and a majority of my courses required a lot of time to understand the material. Balancing my time became absolutely essential for my success. The solution I used to overcome this obstacle was simply planning ahead. My internship required that I work between fifteen and twenty hours a week. Each syllabus outlined what assignments were due and when they were due. My supervisor afforded the internship a flexible schedule to help me meet all academic requirements. Also, I would always work on the assignments that were due first.

PC: What were your learning objectives for the internship? Did you achieve them? How?

JH: My main objective was simply to gain as much professional experience as possible. I learned early on that major companies may deny new graduates because they lack work experience. I refused to fall into that category and so I made sure that I worked the hours necessary to make the internship successful, which in turn pleased my co-workers and would help me to land a part time job at Bally Technologies.

PC: Did you leave "your mark" on the organization? If so, how?

JH: I believe that I left my mark on the organization by helping with the creation of the Bally Technologies "Bally Boot Camp" feature of their website. It took much coordination between many different departments within the company, as well as my own individual efforts to help create the website. Such departments included web developers, fellow technical writers, and Bally technician trainers. When it was completed, I felt a great sense of pride knowing that this section of the website was created thanks in part to the efforts of my co-workers and me.

Internship and Summer Job Fair
March 13, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Student Union Ballroom