THE BEHREND BEACO

On campus job fair helps students of every income

By Rachael Conway Calendar editor

Students gathered in McGarvey Commons on Sept. 6 to obtain information about the work-study program offered here at Behrend. Many students that attend Penn State Behrend are in need of extra money to help cover the expenses that come with the college lifestyle, such as tuition, textbooks, room & board, and social events. However, many of these students might not have transportation to a job that is off-campus, nor have the time for an off-campus job, and this is where the work-study program comes in. Students can work 12 to 15 hours per week while classes are in session, right here on campus.

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) sponsors the State Work-Study Program (SWSP), which has been providing students attending postsecondary institutions in Pennsylvania with financial aid for over 40 years. Penn State University participates in this program, along with other schools in the area, like Mercyhurst College and Gannon University.

There are certain requirements that a student must meet in order to be eligible for the SWSP. One of the major requirements is that students are 18 years of age or older and have lived in the state of Pennsylvania for at least 12 months preceding the date of application. Students must also be a State Grant or Subsidized Federal Loan recipient, and be enrolled at least half-time (6 to 11 credits) in an academic program that is at least two years in length.

The hiring institution, which in this case is Penn State Behrend, has certain rules to follow as well. Behrend already meets the requirement of being an approved PHEAA postsecondary institution, but must also provide participating students with career-related work experience, or work that will use the student's classroom knowledge and skills. Schools participating in the SWSP must also agree not to place students in positions that involve religion or politics, such as lobbying for certain causes. They must also agree not to replace or displace existing employees with students.

Behrend currently has over 700 student employees on campus. These students work in places such as Bruno's, Dobbins, the library, and in computer labs, which are all wage-payroll jobs. Michelle Slagle, Staff Assistant in Financial Aid, can help students find out if they are eligible for work-study, and to help them find jobs on campus that will work with the student's schedule.

Some work-study jobs can pertain to a student's interests and major. Dain Taylor, a junior, is a participant in the program, and his wage-payroll job not only provides him with money to help cover expenses,



Students look for jobs at the on-campus career fair held in McGarvey Commons. but also valuable work experience. "I'm a Computer Science major, and I could work in an engineering

lab. I was also given the option to be a receptionist, typing letters and memos," he said. Work-study is a first come, first serve program, so students who are interested in finding out if they are eligible should contact Michelle Slagle. For more information on eligibility and how to apply, students can visit PHEAA.org, or send questions to matchingfunds@pheaa.org.

The Behrend Beacon

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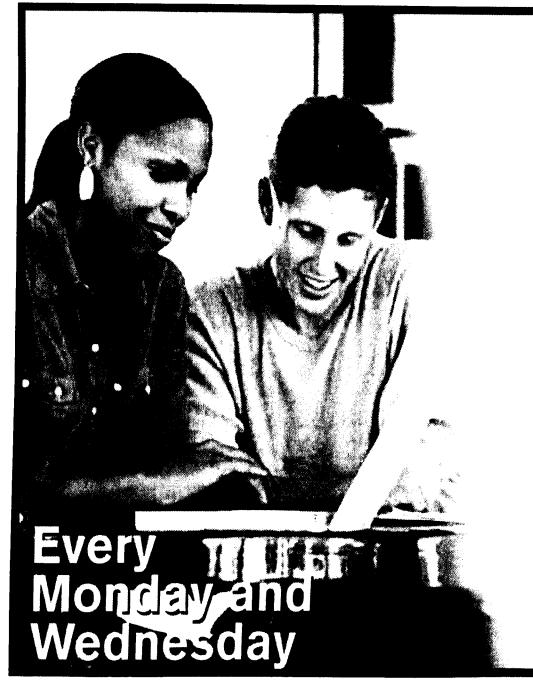
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