

# Internship Fair Brings Employers to PSH



Photo by Cathie McCormick Musser

Jamia Chew-Garner and Nicole Berhard of Shippensburg University attended the Intern Fair.

By Cathie McCormick Musser  
Capital Times Staff Writer

Mid-state employers and students from area colleges crowded the PSH campus Nov. 4 for the 1999 Capital Region Internship/Co-op Fair.

The fair, sponsored by 10 colleges and universities in the Central Pennsylvania region, connects interested students with employers offering internships.

According to Karl Martz, Coordinator of Career Services for PSH, 91 employers and 447 students attended this year's fair. While students from each sponsoring institution attended the fair, "the majority of students were ours," Martz said.

The Capital Union Building housed the Internship Fair exhibits. Rows of tables decorated with Penn State blue helium balloons lined the CUB gymnasium.

Signs, posters and brochures introduced students to the employers' business and corporate culture. Some displays were slick and sophisticated. Others were simple.

Smiling employers gathered resumes and handshakes from students who looked a little uncomfortable in business attire.

Wendy Harrell, Director of Special Events and Marketing for Journal Publications, has had success with the fair in the past.

She considers internships a good prelude to employment. "We've hired three people in the past two years who started as interns," Harrell said.

Positions filled by recent interns include graphic designer and circulation manager. "There's always a new position opening," Harrell added.

She hoped to recruit three or four interns this year, but admitted they usually end up with two.

Albert Pye of BioLogic agrees with Harrell. According to Pye, internships are a "good chance to slowly look at somebody" who is interested in working for the company.

Pye's company researches and produces natural biological insecticides. Interns for BioLogic "learn what real research is," Pye said.

Although pleased with the fair in general, Pye was disappointed by omissions in the Employer Guidebook distributed to intern candidates.

The Employers by Major section of the handout did not list BioLogic under the heading of biology. Pye worried that qualified students would miss his exhibit.

Students huddled at the west end of the gymnasium seemed to be planning their strategies. Nicole Berhard and Jamia Chew-Garner of Shippensburg University were reviewing their progress.

The pair drove 45 minutes to attend the fair. Both women are speech communication majors and had been encouraged to attend the event by their advisor.

Berhard left resumes with the

Dauphin County Public Defender's staff and representatives from Hershey Foods. She is pursuing a career in Human Resources.

Chew-Garner had discussed a marketing internship with Enterprise Rent-a-Car.

Both women were pleased with the fair and looked forward to completing an internship.

While Karl Martz did receive a few complaints, the overwhelming response to the fair was positive. "Both the students and employers were pleased," Martz said.



Photo by Cathie McCormick Musser

Wendy Harrell of Journal Publications.

The great pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do.  
-- Walter Bagehot

Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.  
-- Marie Curie

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