

## Job recruiting organized at career center

By LORRAINE RYAN  
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Perhaps the best known and most used service of the Career Development and Placement Center is its on-campus recruiting and placement program. Last year, 868 recruiters conducted 2,144 interviews on campus, according to a CDPC report.

"Penn State is an attractive place for companies to recruit because of our large and diverse pool of talent," said James P. Bucher, a counselor at the center who arranges on-campus interviews.

"If a company is looking for people to work in sales, accounting, computer programming and industrial engineering, they can come here and interview a variety of candidates in all those fields and many others as well," Bucher said.

"Students who expect the placement center to find them a job are going to be very disappointed," Ralph L. DeShong, coordinator of CDPC services for Commonwealth campuses, said.

"More precisely, what we do is facilitate the meeting of employers with a need for personnel and students who will need jobs in the near future," DeShong added. The facilitation is viewed with gratitude by Hollis Holland, a recruiter for Eastman Kodak.

"I would say that this is one of the first class placement facilities in the country. Business people can really appreciate this because there is no opportunity

for wasting time," Holland said.

"It is centralized, efficient — the staff is very helpful and the facilities are pleasant and functional," Holland added.

The center has a lounge where recruiters can have coffee, relax between interviews in comfortable chairs and read periodicals and statistical information issued by the CDPC.

There are also a series of interview rooms. Outside these offices, well-dressed and groomed students, some anxiously and some with poise and confidence, sit and wait their turn.

"I think what they're doing here is pretty important," Bruce Whiteford (10th-finance) said.

"It's probably one of the best parts of the whole University, assuming I get a job," he added.

"I think it could be improved by having a more orderly way of allowing people see the interview list," said John Heilman, (10th-business logistics), adding that "it may take me a half hour to see whether or not my name is on any of those lists."

During the summer, the CDPC conducts a mass-mailing campaign to try to encourage companies to keep the University in mind when they plan their college recruiting campaigns. The companies receive recruiting packets which include information about the program and informational forms to be completed by the company if it wishes to participate.

If it wishes to recruit, the company reserves a day with the CDPC six to eight weeks in advance. It then mails in the completed forms that will be used to inform students about the type of positions the company wants to fill and what people they are interested in interviewing.

These forms are placed on the bulletin board on fourth floor Boucke on Mondays and are taken down on Thursday afternoons. Not only are permanent jobs listed, but companies also list summer employment opportunities.

Students interested in being interviewed by a company bring a copy of their completed placement registration and interview request form to 413 Boucke. The company screen out those students they are not interested in if the number of interview requests exceeds the number of interviews available.

The information requested on the form is similar to the kind found on a resume, although Bucher emphasized that the form is not actually a resume.

Although students seem to hear everywhere they go that "things are tight," Bucher said Fall Term was the heaviest term yet in the number of interviews requested by companies.

"The market may be tight, but that only means students have to try harder to sell their talents to the employer. And we're just trying to make it that much easier," Bucher said.



Students anxiously scan the schedule of interviews for post-graduation employment at the Career Development and Placement Center on the fourth floor of Boucke.

## Placement Center offers career planning guidance

By KAREN MCMANIMAN  
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered where to go when problems arise in career planning?

The Career Development and Placement Center, located on fourth floor Boucke, has a counseling service for students who find themselves in that situation.

Louise Sandmeyer and Jeff Garis, two of the 10 professionals on the staff, agree that, contrary to popular belief, career

direction is not their function.

"We don't give advice per se because we don't know what is best for you — you do," Sandmeyer said. "Instead, we help students become aware of their strengths, weaknesses, abilities and values."

After defining these points, a counselor will show a student what options are available at the University and point out job possibilities after graduation.

"We do very little testing to determine this; the individual is our major source

of information," Garis said.

Sandmeyer said the center attempts to cater to career concerns of individual students.

"We handle career concerns at any level. They vary according to term standing," she said. "It's not a prescription blank that we fill out as we go along."

For students who are unsure of what field to enter, the center offers career exploration groups.

"This gives participants a process for

making an informed decision. Anywhere from five to eight students join in this process," Sandmeyer said.

Another service offered by the center is the Outreach Program. In this program, staff members discuss career issues with any student interest group or residence hall requesting the program.

For the senior about to enter the job market, counselors help answer the questions, "What do I really want to do?" and "How do I go about attaining

it?" They accomplish this by sponsoring career seminars designed to aid students in essential areas of interview preparation such as resume writing and interview skills. Job search strategies and effective use of resources in academic departments are also discussed.

Another all-important question is, "Why did you come to college?" This issue receives special focus as counselors try to help students formulate

appropriate personal career

Garis said.

Since college costs are increasing and a degree does not guarantee a job, career decision must be based on a wide range of information, he said.

"It's best not to base it on what your parents or a high school counselor say you should do, or even a job outlook survey," Garis said. "You've got to take a good look at yourself to make an informed choice."

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