The TRiO Times

Student Support Services

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Mott Community College

Learning Center - TRiO-SSS
1401 East Court Street
Flint, MI 48503-20809
(810) 762-5117 v/tty

TRiO
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Five Ways College Gave You More Training Than You Thought
Laura Morsch, CareerBuilder.com writer

According to CareerBuilder.com's 2006 college survey, one-in-four hiring managers say relevant experience is the top thing they look for in a new graduate. If you can find a paid internship or can afford to take an unpaid one, more power to you. You have a head start on the job market. For the rest of you -- even if you've never worked in an office -- your college days have given you more experience than you might think. You just need to strategically market your campus activities. Before you write your résumé, consider your:

Coursework

Remember those weeks you spent in the student center working on that group advertising project? That's experience. So is that 3,000-word investigative journalism story you researched all semester. If you worked on a project or report in the classroom that directly relates to a certain field, by all means include it on your résumé. Sometimes, creating a strategic list of classes you've taken can give you an edge. For example, say you're a premed-turned-journalism major. You'd be a great candidate if you came across a posting for a science reporter job. Create a "Relevant Coursework" section on your résumé, and list your important journalism classes alongside the biology and chemistry classes you took as an underclassman. A word of caution: Don't list classes for the sake of listing classes. The section is called "*Relevant* Coursework" for a reason.

Part-time jobs

Meticulously folding T-shirts into identical stacks at the Gap or bussing tables at Red Lobster might not seem like the kind of experience employers are looking for. But your part-time gig taught you some important skills that can translate to any workplace. Think about when you waited tables: You probably learned to diplomatically handle all sorts of people -- even the difficult ones. Plus, working your way through school (especially if you didn't let your grades suffer) shows dedication and impressive time-management ability. When you include these jobs on your résumé, the key is to not just list your job duties. Focus on accomplishments (like when you increased sales by 10 percent at the hot dog stand) or skills learned on the job.

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Campus leadership positions

It's impressive to be dorm president. It's even more impressive when you show how you successfully managed a $10,000 budget and created and implemented a plan to reduce dorm vandalism and reduced cleaning costs by 50 percent year-over-year. Don't rely on a fancy title -- show how your time and hard work made an impact on your organization.

Clubs and other extracurriculars

So, you couldn't get a job because you spent all your non-class time on the basketball court? Your time as a varsity athlete likely taught you leadership, teamwork and some serious time-management -- all things employers consider to be important. Or maybe you were in charge of your sorority's recruitment. You now have experience managing a budget, supervising a staff and coordinating PR efforts to make your sorority's image as positive as possible.

Volunteer work

If you spent a day or two a week helping out at a nursing home or writing up fliers for a political campaign, don't discount the value of your work. More than 60 percent of hiring managers say they count volunteer work as relevant experience, according to CareerBuilder.com. Again, keep in mind that a list of accomplishments and skills is much more compelling than a list of job duties.

Laura Morsch is a writer for CareerBuilder.com. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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Staff Update

Sara Butka has joined us as a full-time staff member with the job title of **Student Support Services Coordinator**. You will probably recognize her; she has been with the Learning Center for almost three years now out front as one of our Administrative Assistants. Please help us welcome Sara - we are pleased she has joined TRiO-SSS!

Participation Point Redemption Changes

Remember, you now have two options for redeeming your Participation Points!

1. You can redeem your accumulated points at the end of each semester for items that fall in your points category.

OR

2. You may redeem your accumulated points at the TRiO-SSS Awards Banquet held in May 2007.

Remember: There is a limit of 3 reward items for members earning 30 or more points for the 06/07 school year.

"When you get right down to the meaning of the word *succeed*, you find that it simply means to follow through."

-F.W. Nichol,
Former vice president and general manager of IBM

TRiO Grant Guidelines Reminder

Just a reminder! In order to be considered for the TRiO-SSS Grant, you must meet all the following criteria:

1. Be receiving a Federal Pell Grant
2. Carry a minimum of 8 credits (Fall/Winter Semesters)
3. Be in good academic standing (cumulative GPA of 2.3 or higher)
4. Be actively participating in the TRiO-SSS Program activities (workshops, coordinator visits, etc.)
5. Demonstrate a commitment to transfer
6. Explore every opportunity before withdrawing from a class.

If you were eligible to apply for the Grant for Winter semester, you would have received a TRiO-SSS Grant postcard in the mail. If you did not receive a postcard and have questions, please stop in to the Learning Center and see either Ellen or Sara.

Fall Semester University Visits

Your TRiO-SSS Program visited three universities this past Fall semester. Trips to U of M-Flint, Wayne State University, and Michigan State University took place the first three weeks in November. Students got the opportunity to tour each campus and ask questions. Students were also given presentations on Admissions and the transfer process. Those that attended the trip to MSU got to tour a typical dorm room and eat at one of the campus cafeterias. We also received a very interesting tour of the Breslin Center, home to the NCAA Men's and Women's 2005 Final Four Basketball teams.

University visits are scheduled throughout the year and are free to TRiO-SSS participants! Postcards regarding visits are mailed out to your home. If you are interested in joining us on a university visit or would like more information on where we're going next, please stop in and see a coordinator!

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www.mcc.edu/learning/lc_trio.shtml

COORDINATOR CHAT

Stop in on your designated day and earn 20 points!

2006 Holiday Luncheon

On Wednesday, December 6th, TRiO-SSS held a Holiday Luncheon for our members. Held in the QUEST Center in the Mott Library, our members enjoyed lunch from Famous Dave's and other assorted delicious desserts. Participants were also able to redeem their points earned to date for TRiO gear.

Wishing you a safe and happy Holiday Season!

See you in 2007!