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Students use job fair to meet with employers

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For students like business administration major Jaime Salgado, the bi-annual job fair gave students a chance to search for jobs at Cerritos College. The fair was held by the Job Placement Center in front of the library on campus last Wednesday.

Salgado said, "I'm trying to find a job that kind of lies with my career choice of accounting. I've seen a couple places already like H&R Block and other places that kind of go with my career field."

Salgado explained that the job fair is great for students to introduce themselves to the professional world.

"Any opportunity is great for students. I think it's important that students get experience in a professional business environment."

Rose Vasquez, administrative secretary of Career Services, talked about the overall vibe.

"It went very well, it was better than what we expected. There was a lot of people who showed up and most of the employers showed up."

"Overall, all the employers got good contacts, they met with a lot of students. The traffic in every single booth was good; most employers rated the fair excellent."

Radiology Christopher Gonzalez commented on the job fair, "At the moment, I am employed, but it's still good to look around and see what other options are available."

Angelique Kingston, volunteer coordinator for Gerinet Healthcare said, "We'll take any(one) and everyone (who is) willing to gather information about the services that we provide."

Vasquez spoke about the kinds of things students can do to prepare for a job, "Prior to our job fairs, we provide workshops on how to prepare for job fairs and how to put a resume together."

"We do have the job placement office with computers where students can do some research."

The Job Placement Center is planning on doing another job fair in the spring of 2014.



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American Dream leaves students tired

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Students attend college for different reasons, but a common one would be for a chance at a better life.

"I wanted to get a better future and potentially earn more money," Jose Trejo, mathematics major, said.

Education is said to be a bridge to a better life and has been seen as a crucial part of the American dream.

"Education makes you better," psychology major Hanah Reid said.

"If you're uneducated, you don't really have many chances in the world."

The price of education

However, while college may have been an option for previous generations, its existence may be the reason so many students feel the need to attend college.

This need has led to a total of \$1.2 trillion in unpaid student debt as of May 2013 accord-

ing to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (<http://1.usa.gov/1apgl5n>).

A study from The Institute for College Access and Success (<http://bit.ly/106YcDO>), which runs the "Project on Student Debt," indicates that the average college graduate will owe around \$26,600.

The price of college tuition has been one of the contributing factors to the increase of student loans.

Leaving college

Some students are finding out that debt is not the only obstacle they will face when they leave college.

While the current job market has been tough for Americans as a whole, new graduates are having a particular hard time finding work.

In a study by Rutgers University, college graduates from 2006 to 2011 were surveyed to determine how they have fared since leaving college.

In the study, 51 percent of the graduates said that they were working full-time jobs

(<http://bit.ly/1nwIE0>).

Fourteen percent had moved on to graduate school and were either employed full time or part time.

The rest (excluding those who volunteered in the Peace Corps or joined the military) were either underemployed or unemployed.

Underemployment has also been on the rise as 48 percent of graduates are currently in jobs that do not require a four-year degree (<http://bit.ly/124fWnz>).

Some students are taking part-time work, jobs not associated with their major or jobs that do not require a degree.

This is due to desperation as student are unable to find work in their chosen field.

Returning to the nest

The tough job market and lower paying jobs have had other effects as graduates are starting to return home.

The current economy has caused an increase in the amount of millennials living at home with their family.

According to the Pew Research Center,

21.6 million "millennials are living at home, which is up from 18.5 million in 2007" (<http://bit.ly/16mdYzR>).

Students look to the future

Despite the numbers, students are cautious, but hopeful about their future.

"I'm not so sure (of the future) because of how the world is right now," Trejo said. "I don't know, even with a college education, if there will be a job."

However, Trejo still believes that going to school can lead to success.

"The American dream can still be realized, but with the current state, it can be harder."

Psychology major German Sanchez is a returning student who says he has experienced the real world and still believes college is beneficial to students.

"Well, it's kind of a little grim to be quite honest," Sanchez said, "but at the same time, I didn't really follow a career I didn't want to do for money."

"I want to follow a career where I'm happy with life and happy with what I do."

CHP takes to airwaves to educate students

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California Highway Patrol was added to the prominent list of guests that have appeared on "Community College Corner," a radio show at WPMD.

Gayle Parks hosts the show and tries to bring in guests that could help out the students that are walking around campus.

"There is a lot they can learn from tuning into the radio station and if you have a field that you need to go into, I usually bring in a guest so you could have a better understanding of what you need to do."

CHP was on the show for a few weeks to discuss topics such as domestic abuse and drinking and driving, and the latest show was about distracted driving.

Alfredo Perez, a public information officer, talked about the importance of being focused.

"Things that we face on the highway (are) that a lot of teenagers are being killed unnecessarily. Either by being distracted by texting, being on their cellphone, surfing on the Internet (or) looking at their Facebook or Instagram."

Perez gave the example of how people are often attached to their phone and said, "It just seems like whenever the cellphone rings, we are very anxious to answer it or when a text comes in, we have the tendency, without giving a second thought, we just look at it."

Car crashes are the number one cause of death for teenagers, and texting seems to be one of the main reasons why people are distracted while driving.

"(The) worst of all is texting. Texting takes your mind, your eyes and your hands away while you are driving," Perez said.

He then put how fast cars travel into perspective and said, "If your car is driving at 50 miles per hour, the car is moving around 40 feet per

second. So if you look down to check your phone for a second, you have already traveled 40 feet."

The message was directed for teenagers, but it could apply to adults as well.

Gildardo "Demo" Aquino is currently the president of the WPMD Radio and Broadcasting Club and sees the importance of bringing in the officers to talk about distracted driving.

"Things happen in a split second and things have happened to friends of mine that were on the phone and got in an accident from texting."

"Community College Corner" airs every Tuesday at 1 p.m. and can be heard right outside of the radio station or on its 1700 AM frequency.

"I talk about the weather, the sports, the campus clubs and I do giveaways, but you have to be listening to the show," Parks said.



PHOTO BY: GUSTAVO OLGUIN/TM
Gayle Parks talks to California Highway Patrol Officer Alfredo Perez on Park's show "College Community Corner."