

MACOMB COUNTY

Much goes on behind the scenes of annual job fair

Yes, Macomb Community College's Career Services hosts an annual job fair, but it also provides free workshops to help students polish their resumes and interview skills before the big day, as well as coordinates business- and industry-specific tours throughout the year to ensure a good fit before they ever accept a job offer.

"Career Services is dedicated to providing students with the resources they need to get the most out of their college experience," said Bob Penkala, Career Services director. "It's more than just helping them find jobs, it's helping them make informed choices and maximizing their talents and abilities."

The Job Fair Success workshop is one of the most popular of those offered by Career Services each semester because of its timely advice, while the First-Generation College Student workshop offers ongoing strategies for balancing school, work and family responsibilities. There are also workshops to help students improve their time-management, stress-management, decision-making, textbook-reading, note-taking, math and memory skills. Other workshops help students avoid the perils of plagiarism, safely and effectively use social media for career networking, prepare presentations for their classes, identify and follow a career path, and stay motivated.

"I plan on keeping a day planner now, and not just a weekly planner," said Taylor Lindke, a Macomb student who attended the Time Management workshop. "This is so I can be more specific



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Vince Ruskowski, director of operations at Stanley Engineered Fastening in Chesterfield Township, talks with robotics students from Macomb during a recent tour organized by Career Services.

about using my time."

The tours Career Services organizes to local companies include the First Friday Field Trips, which are open to all students, and individualized tours for specific programs. A recent one to Stanley Engineered Fastening, a global fastener supplier, was specifically designed for students in the grant-funded Robot Technician Certification program offered at Macomb's Michigan Technical Education Center (M-TEC).

"The tour was a great experience," said Jahmeen Lloyd, one of the M-TEC students who participated in the tour. "We met with the CEO, the HR director and a few more from their leadership team and spoke about their plans to hire their own in-house robotic mechanic team."

The Spring Job Fair, however, is certainly the most visible of Career Services' activities. It is at-

tended by as many as 1000 job seekers each year, who have the opportunity to meet with representatives from more than 200 companies.

"Employers say that this event provides an excellent forum to promote career opportunities," said Penkala. "Many job seekers are hired on the spot, or shortly after the job fair."

The 2019 Spring Job Fair, co-sponsored by the City of Warren, will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 4 to 7 p.m., at the South Campus Sports and Expo Center. The event is open to the community and attendees are advised to dress in business attire and bring copies of their resume. Preceding the Job Fair is the Job Fair Success workshop on Friday, April 12, held from 10 to 11 a.m. in G309, South Campus, and from 1 to 2 p.m. in H219, Center Campus. To register for the workshop, call 586.445.7321.

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Ambulance simulator prepares EMTs/paramedics for real-life scenarios

While the ride to the hospital is frightening enough for patients transported by ambulance, they shouldn't have to worry about how long the person taking their pulse has been on the job. But if that emergency medical technician (EMT) or paramedic received their training at Macomb Community College's Public Service Institute (PSI), those patients are in good hands.

Macomb's PSI introduced an ambulance simulator two years ago, providing both students and instructors the opportunity to observe how each other performs emergency medical tasks and protocols inside the confined space of an ambulance. By their first day on the job, program graduates have already logged in several hours conducting "runs" in an ambulance.

"It has enhanced the learning experience by forcing students to take the next step toward total 'immersion,'" said David Armstrong, EMS faculty. "When it becomes an immersive experience, you can then promote critical thinking and shape appropriate responses."

Purchased with funds from a Perkins Grant, the ambulance simulator provides lab time for students enrolled in Macomb's Emergency Medical Services program. The program trains both EMTs and paramedics for their unique roles on a first-response



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Macomb EMT/paramedic students learn appropriate emergency responses in an ambulance simulator at the Public Service Institute on the college's East Campus.

team. EMTs provide basic life support, including CPR, artificial ventilation and bandaging and splinting. Additionally, paramedics also provide advanced life support, including administering medication, starting intravenous lines and advanced airway management.

Students pursuing an Associate of Applied Science Degree in EMT/Paramedic at Macomb may complete the EMT portion of their training in one semester and begin working in the field as they continue on with their paramedic training. Certificate options are also available, with passage of the Basic EMT and EMT/

Paramedic licensing exams required for practice in the field. In 2017/18, Macomb grads had a 100 percent pass rate.

"Society increasingly relies on first responders, necessitating that the first responder be smarter, stronger and more compassionate than those whom he or she serves. These are teachable traits, but you have to tap into attitude, and both critical and creative thinking," said Armstrong. "You have to utilize techniques such as immersive training to reach that level of engagement, and this simulator is the first step in creating immersive training."

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Entrepreneurial spirit complements many careers

Not all students who seek assistance from Macomb Community College's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) will become entrepreneurs, but that's not to say they won't become successful.

"All students who work with the CIE learn how adopting an entrepreneurial mindset builds the critical skills and confidence needed to pursue potential business opportunities," said Ellen Lux, CIE director. "They gain competencies essential to our rapidly changing technical and workforce landscape, such as those in creative problem solving, interpersonal and persuasive communication, collaboration, and community and peer networking. These are skills that transfer to any job, which is the great part about the learning experiences offered through the CIE."

The CIE was founded in 2014 and provides free assistance to both students and community members. Its offices are located at the college's South Campus in Warren and Center Campus in Clinton Township, with a Macomb business professor serving as an advisor at each. With the director, they provide a one-stop resource for entrepreneurship education, including small business coaching and mentoring, business plan templates, market research tools, networking opportunities and referrals to educational programs and county small business resources.

Daniel Veryser, a Macomb graduate who is now in the Bachelor's in Business Administration program offered by Ferris State University at the college's South Campus, brought his idea for a Recipe Cup to the CIE about a year ago. His invention is a measuring cup with drink recipes marked along the side, de-

signed to save the user time because they do not have to use other measuring utensils.

"The CIE has helped develop my product through honest feedback during our brainstorming sessions," said Veryser. "Their enthusiasm for entrepreneurship is contagious and gives me energy when working on the Recipe Cup."

Richard Clay Jr., CEO of Mr. Sunny Auto Detailing and Roadside Service, is a student in Macomb's Advanced Technology - Mechanical Maintenance program. He approached the CIE for ideas to fund and promote his two-year mobile car wash company.

"The CIE has helped me tremendously," said Clay. "Ellen has helped with my business plan, along with being a great mentor. I would highly recommend the CIE to those inspired to become entrepreneurs."

The CIE also holds regular free workshops and events, including the upcoming Student Entrepreneurship Pitch Exhibit.

"The exhibit will include student-designed showcases that illustrate their unique idea and how it solves a problem," explained Lux. "All students will receive encouragement and feedback from our CIE advisors throughout the creation of their exhibit, with awards for the top showcases presented at an evening reception."

The Student Entrepreneurship Pitch Exhibit will be on display at the South Campus Library April 8-12, during regular building hours. The awards presentation/reception (with a guided walk through) will be held 5 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10. The public is invited to both the exhibit and the reception.

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Medical Assistant program offers one-year pathway to employment

The Medical Assistant program offered at Macomb Community College has been realigned to better meet the needs of the health care community, while giving students a quicker pathway into a paying job.

Formerly offered as an associate degree program, students took program-specific courses in tandem with general education courses over a two-year period. Beginning in the Fall Semester 2019, the Medical Assistant program, accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, will be offered as a one-year certificate program. Students will complete the core courses in one year and will be eligible to take the Certified Medical Assistant Exam.

"There is a critical shortage of medical assistants in the health care industry, and the change is being implemented to meet the demand," said Donna Domanke-Nuytten, medical assistant faculty. "It also fits well

into Michigan's Marshall Plan for Talent, which seeks to provide high school graduates with opportunities for career readiness in one year."

After earning the certificate, students in the program may opt to continue on with the general education requirements and earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Medical Assistant. The additional 21 credits required to earn the degree includes courses in English, science, math, social science and the humanities.

"Now graduates will be able to begin working as a medical assistant," said Domanke-Nuytten, "while continuing on to earn their degree."

Registration dates for Macomb Community College's Fall 2019 Semester

- Admitted by May 31: Registration starts July 15
- Admitted after May 31: Registration starts July 17
- Classes start Aug. 19

For more information, go to: <https://www.macomb.edu/>

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For more information about CTE, contact Shannon Williams at 586.228.3488 or swilliams@misd.net



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