

Mount Bachelor recruits Peruvian students

BEND, Ore. — The competition for seasonal labor is bringing about 30 Peruvian college students to Mount Bachelor in a switch from what would have been their summer vacation in the Southern Hemisphere to working the northern winter season at an Oregon ski resort.

The students will work at the Mount Bachelor ski resort as lift at-

tendants, housekeepers, dishwashers and servers after the resort looked outside the country for the first time to recruit employees.

The decreasing supply of service workers in Bend makes seasonal employees harder for the resort to find, said Janette Sherman, resort spokeswoman.

"We are a growing business and

the (entry-level) labor market is shrinking," Sherman said. "We also are in a booming town and as an employer, we are in competition with other employers in town."

In the past few years, the number of service-job openings in Central Oregon has outpaced the number of service-job workers, according to Jan Swander, work force analyst at the Oregon Employment Department in Bend.

The employment office currently has 403 job listings in Bend paying \$7.25 to \$8 an hour.

Ski resorts have sought help outside the United States for years, said Michael Berry, president of Colorado-based National Ski Areas Association, but the trend has increased dramatically in recent years.

But finding seasonal employees has become more difficult in the past 10 years as the number of entry-level jobs outpaces the number of avail-

able workers, Berry said.

The reasons could include the high cost of living in resort towns or competition from other businesses, he said.

"This happens in a lot, if not all, major destination resorts in the region," Berry said. "Areas and needs have grown and sometimes the number of people coming to town looking for seasonal work hasn't grown in lock step."

Ski resorts nationwide recruit globally from places like Poland, Russia, the Balkans, South Africa, Peru, Argentina, New Zealand and Australia, Berry said. The foreigners don't necessarily come because they like winter recreation, but to earn money and gain experience.

"Most recruits are college students in their early 20s looking for opportunities to earn more money in the United States than they could at home and then continue their educa-

tion when they're done," Berry said.

If the program is successful, international hiring may become commonplace, Bachelor officials say.

The Peruvian students, ranging from 19 to mid-20s, attend college in Lima, Peru's largest city with more than 8 million people, according to the U.S. Department of State Web site. They study a variety of subjects, including law, travel, translation and hospitality.

Lima native Estefani Ortecho, 19, is one of the Peruvian students who headed north. The engineering and business management student is excited to work independently for the first time in a new country.

"I want to improve my English and experience a new place and culture," Ortecho said by telephone. "I'm excited because it's going to be a great experience."

—The Associated Press

Students Fly Cheaper

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Finance: Team makes sound investments

Some members say the group has impacted their personal investments as well as their career paths.

"Several of us follow the investment group's portfolio," said Leah Carter, the group's director of operations.

Carter, a senior majoring in business administration, said she began investing her own money after she received cash for Christmas one year.

"Rather than spend my money, I decided to invest so I'd have more money to spend later," Carter said.

For students interested in starting their own investment portfolios, Carter recommended the services of stock broker Scottrade (www.scottrade.com). Opening an account with Scottrade requires a minimum investment of \$500. A Eugene branch is located in Suite 104, 2350 Oakmont Way, near the Oakway Center.

People who want to invest in the stock market should know that they risk losing money and should decide how much risk they are comfortable

with, Buell said.

Buell said young investors have the opportunity to be more aggressive than older investors because their years of peak earning are still ahead of them.

However, some group members say aggressive strategies are not required for young investors.

"I plan on being in the stocks that I buy on a long-term basis," Carter said. "I don't day-trade."

Carter added that she reviews all of her stocks on a monthly basis to decide whether to increase or decrease the number of shares she holds.

Buell said one of his investments has increased in value by 97 percent since he bought it earlier this year. Another stock increased by 105 percent and a third by 55 percent.

"A lot of them I picked from things I heard in the investment group," Buell said. "Those are very unusual, exciting results. That's definitely not the norm."

He added that being in the

investment group helps him make investment decisions he can feel confident about.

Buell, a senior majoring in finance, will graduate after this term. In January, he will become the vice president for private client services at MKG Financial Group.

"This group helped a lot in that process for me," Buell said.

Currently the group has 15 members, and Buell said it is seeking to replace 14 longtime members who graduated this spring.

The admission process is competitive, and Buell said weekly meetings at 8 a.m. Fridays help weed out those who are more interested in going on trips than in serious work. Students of all majors are welcome to apply.

An informational meeting will be held Thursday at 6 p.m. in 132 Lillis.

Contact the business, science and technology reporter at esywester@dailymerald.com

STOCK MARKET BASICS

- A share of stock is a share in the ownership of a company. Companies sell shares of stock to raise money. Owning a share of stock entitles an investor to a portion of the company's assets, sometimes paid in cash, more often in stock or property.
- An investor cannot buy a share of stock unless another investor is willing to sell his or her share of that stock. These trades are mediated by stock brokers.
- Stock prices change through supply and demand. If more people want to buy a stock than want to sell it, the price of the stock increases and vice versa. Demand for a company's stock is often affected by the strength of the company's earnings.
- To make money in the stock market, buy shares of a stock when the price is low and sell the shares after the price increases.

Source: Investopedia.com (www.investopedia.com/university/stocks)

IRC: New 'meeting place for the world'

providing access to international news, officials said the IRC hopes to further integrate the University with the international community.

"We call it a 'meeting place for the world,'" Mills said.

Sonja Rasmussen, IRC programs coordinator, said the facility serves an essential purpose in the lives of international students and in the health of the University.

"It is vital to the larger mission of

the University: education and global citizenship," she said.

Contact the higher education reporter jbailey@dailymerald.com

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