

Workshop prerequisite to job placement

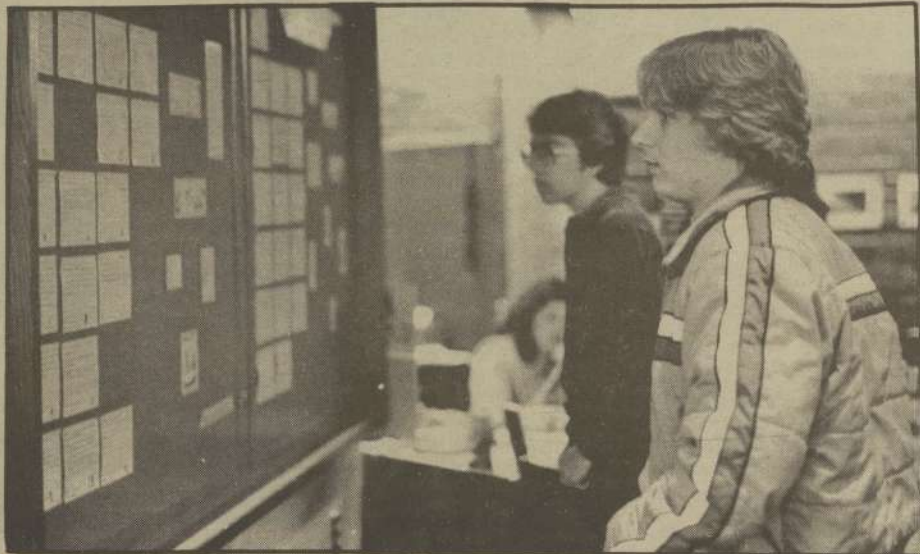
By J. Dana Haynes
Of the Print

A new twist has been added to the College's Job Placement Center. Starting this week, a mandatory one-hour workshop is required for everyone using the job finding resources.

The workshop is designed to give the unemployed population of the College the skills to find work. "We felt the only way to help everyone fairly, was to set up the workshop," Kate Ellis, placement specialist, explained. "We want to do more than just send people out to find work; we want to give them the 'tools' to use."

Those tools include how to prepare for an interview, how to dress and how to "...keep the frustration in check," Ellis said. "If you apply for work at ten places and get turned down, how do you handle number 11? We hope to tell people how."

The new system comes in response to Oregon's ever-increasing unemployment rate



LOOKING FOR A job, Brett Clason looks at the Job Board for local openings.

Staff Photo by Duane Hiersche

(currently estimated at 11.2 percent) and the imminent demise of the state's job referral program.

Sheri Schoenborn, career development and placement secretary, feels the hard times

are obvious on campus. "We're seeing twice as many people now than we did this time last year," she said.

On an average day, 60 to 70 people visit the center to search the "job board," a cor-

board on the wall with index cards listing full- and part-time jobs. "I wasn't comfortable spending five minutes with a person and then sending them out to apply for a job," Ellis said. "So we decided to do

something drastic."

The mini-workshops are held several times per day, and last one hour. "We'll talk about basic job hunting skills, what the job market looks like, and maybe even form a 'job hunting support group' to deal with the frustration," Ellis said.

Subjects covered at the workshops will include such topics as who to talk to, where to look, how to quickly research the classified ads, and how to approach a prospective employer. "It's a very competitive market out there," Ellis said, "Looking for a job these days is a job in itself."

According to Ellis and Schoenborn, some people have resisted the mandatory meeting. "Some have said 'I know how to dress and how to be interviewed,'" Ellis explained, "Find, then we ask them to attend the workshop and share their experiences. It's an open forum and everyone should speak up."

One welding student who attended the workshop said that he visited one company five times, showing up every

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Board rewards management committee

By Mike Rose
Of the Print

The Board of Education voted unanimously Jan. 13 to award \$1,800 in bonuses to the College's management negotiating team. Each member of the three-man negotiating team received \$600 in addition to their regular salary.

According to the Board minutes, the cash bonus was "in recognition of outstanding service to the College" during the negotiations of faculty and support staff contracts.

The \$600-bonus recipients were Bill Ryan, administrative dean of college services, Lyle Reese, assistant dean of business and public service, and Jim Painter, personnel officer.

College President John Hakanson said the \$600

bonuses were well deserved because "the management team had to spend extra time and effort to meet and negotiate with both faculty and administration."

The practice of giving bonuses to the management negotiating team has been going on for some time, "at least three years," Dr. Hakanson said.

Hakanson said to the best of his knowledge, this is the first year that the press, specifically "The Enterprise Courier" has printed articles about the bonuses. "Hard times may have caused some of the reaction," he said.

When asked if he thought it was inappropriate to award cash bonuses when the College is experiencing budget cuts, Hakanson said, "If I thought it was inappropriate, I would not have done it."

Bonus recipients, Ryan, Reese, and Painter were contacted, but they had no comment.

Jack Hunter, of the Oregon Education Association, the union that represents College faculty, said in his experience it was "odd" that a public college or school would pay bonuses to a management negotiating team, except for professional negotiators. "It's part of the three administrators contract to participate in negotiations," said Les Tipton, president of the College's faculty association. "No one else in the College gets bonuses; the faculty group didn't get paid a dime for their part in contract negotiations."

"The bonuses were not proper or reasonable because of the shortage of funds," Tipton added.

John Rau, Social Science

instructor, suggested that the bonuses have caused ill feelings between administration and faculty. Rau said, "The Board might be throwing salt into the wounds of a very difficult negotiating process. For the job they did in screwing the faculty, I'm surprised they didn't get \$6,000."

A representative of the College's support staff, Carrie Heaton, said the administrators deserved the money, but it was bad timing to offer cash bonuses. Heaton explained that the support staff was sensitive to expenditures because working hours are now being cut back, and may be cut back further due to the budgeting situation.

"Many workers are aware that their hours may be reduced. The \$1,800 bonus is enough money to keep one of

the support staff working for two months," Heaton said.

"Among support staff there is some resentment and difficulty understanding the College's inconsistencies," Heaton said.

One support staff worker said, "I am confused, I don't understand. We were asked to give 'creative suggestions' by the administration on how to cut the budget and then they give themselves \$600 bonuses. It's a double standard. Our union should have done something."

Another College staff member said "The three administrators got a \$600 bonus for 'doing their job.' How can they ask the public to vote to pay more taxes to support the College when they waste money like that. The whole thing makes us look like idiots."



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