

# Career Center puts students on track toward employment

**Denee Shelton**  
The Clackamas Print

How cool would it be to work for Intel, IBM, Nike or even National Geographic? Sounds pretty awesome, right? The Career Center, located in the Student Community Center, is the place to go to get assistance when job hunting and career searching.

Mat Genuser, the Career Center chief of staff, has built the center from the ground up. He explains as he points at all of the computers and resources in the center.

"We had no prior recourse to work with and now we have all of this information [available], I never dreamed it would go so well," said Genuser.

The Career Center was implemented and established in the Community Center during late summer of 2012.

A new tool the Career Center has started using is called Interview Stream.

"There just isn't enough time for me to meet with every student that needs to talk to me," said Genuser. "This tool makes it so everyone can get the help they need without having to talk directly to me."

Sometimes students' interview skills aren't really what they should be. The cool thing about Interview Stream is that it allows Genuser to have an interview with any student who has a webcam.

Genuser gives Interview Stream a series of questions for a student to answer through his/her own webcam. The technology allows the tracking of how many times he/she says "um," or "uh." It also tracks how many times eye contact is broken as well as body language and other eye movement. Feedback is provided and Interview Stream will also send a copy to Genuser so he can see how the student is doing.

Pam Allen, Genuser's assistant, is an advocate of the center because she believes it strengthens individuals in the community, while strengthening the community as a whole.

"Having come fresh from a job search, the skills that I'm showing students and community members who are looking for jobs are pretty well honed in me," she said.

Students who have no idea what they want to do, no idea what career pathway they want, what their major is going to



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*Pam Allen, left, and Zach Turnbull, right, work together in the Career Center. The Career Center is open from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.*

be or what kind of job they want when they get older can check out career exploration and career navigation through a website called Career Inventory System.

CIS allows students to start exploring different careers. Students who know what they want to do, but just need more information, can utilize this online resource. If a student is torn between two different careers they can use the website to compare them side by side.

CIS also allows the student to compare schools that are suited to the career they want to pursue. It shows the population of the school, the population of the city and the tuition difference.

"If a student comes to the Career Center and doesn't know what to do, we help them decide between two different careers," Genuser said. "Then we go one step further and figure out what school they want to transfer to. Then we can tell them to meet with an adviser and figure out what their career path is and put together an education plan."

Students who say "I need a job!" and don't know the true process of looking for a job or haven't had much success can use a website called collegecentralnetwork.com/Clackamas. Within the website there are

all different types of resources that can help a student become employable.

When a student creates an account, they can allow employers access to their resume. Some employers will actually contact the student directly. An employer may contact a student before they even apply for a job.

College Central Network has relationships with other job search engines and instead of having to go to 15 different search engines, College Central Network pools the jobs together into one place to save you from all the extra time and hassle. The website also offers the option of internships.

With this website, you can either upload a resume that you already have, or you can create your own. The process is incredibly easy and takes 30 seconds at least, but obviously the more specific you get, the more time it takes.

College Central Network

also has the ability to allow you to create a portfolio. For example, an art or design student can upload samples of their work so potential employers get to see what they've done and why they should hire the students.

"Genuser and Allen are a friendly, informative and supportive team of people to work with," said Zach Turnbull, a five-term student at Clackamas Community College. "I didn't go to any of the counseling and advising for a long time. I knew about them, but never had any desire to use their help. Now I'm realizing that I need them and wish that I had come back sooner. He [Mat] is very helpful."

Don't be afraid of the Career Center. Genuser and Allen are a strong team that will do anything in their power to get you into the work force and into a job that you enjoy. "If a student asks for it and we don't have it," said Allen, "we go out of our way to get it for them."

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**Career Center Hours:**

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Mon. - Fri.

Located in the counseling department of the Community Center

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