Students Need to Start Early to Find the Right Job After College

I recently participated as a trainer at an etiquette dinner for ISU students who were interested in improving their job search interviewing skills. The group was a mix of freshmen through seniors, and the focus included tips on interviewing techniques, appropriate dress, and socializing. The session was full, which confirmed that students understand the challenges they face after graduation when they enter the competitive world of searching for career-related positions. The overarching message we tried to convey that evening was “don’t panic.” While the job market is challenging, it isn’t impenetrable. Experts in college career services say entry-level jobs for college graduates remain stable. However, as has long been true, employers continue to look especially for graduates with work experience, high levels of motivation, and a focused interest in their businesses.

CollegeGrad.com, the number one entry-level job site on the Web, announced recently they expected to see the largest increase in job listings since 2005. Collectively, over 158,000 jobs were listed on this site alone in late 2009.

I was gratified during the etiquette dinner to see so many first and second-year students interested in learning about job searching. Unfortunately, too many students wait until they are seniors to begin preparing for searches; that often disadvantages them in this competitive environment. There are several things students can do beginning in their first year of college to prepare for the ultimate goal of finding a job. Here are a few recommendations:

- It is never too early to visit the Career Center on campus to explore the connection between academic majors and careers, investigate part-time jobs and internships, and learn how to write a compelling resume and craft an effective cover letter.

- Learn how networking with alumni, members of professional associations, and on the Internet can help make valuable personal connections. It is estimated 60 percent of all jobs found are the result of networking. There are discussion sites like Job Search Forum where students can network with a variety of career professionals.

- Consider internships as a pre-professional work experience and a way to “test the waters” in a variety of career fields. Some internships are paid and many count as academic credit toward graduation. One particularly helpful site to learn more about internships is www.internweb.com.

- Remain flexible but focused. Finding a job can be enhanced when thinking broadly about the fields in which an academic major is compatible. At the same time, it is essential to thoroughly research these fields to be able to present to employers compelling reasons why there is a good fit.

Even in tough economic times, employers are looking for top college talent to bring energy and fresh ideas into their companies. By starting as early as the first year of college to explore future career goals means your students will likely find greater personal satisfaction in their lives and have a more secure economic future.

John Beacon
Vice President, Enrollment Management, Marketing, and Communications
Dear Parents,

This is an exciting time to be at Indiana State University. The implementation of our five-year strategic plan, “The Pathway to Success,” is well underway and the University is moving forward on many fronts.

All of this activity is designed to address our top priority—helping students achieve their educational goals. No one comes to college expecting to drop out or fail. It is our responsibility to ensure that your student receives a quality and challenging education and to provide the services and resources our students need to succeed. Across our campus you will find individuals committed to helping our students.

Indiana State is implementing a number of initiatives designed to help engage students in activities that will increase their likelihood of graduating along with programs to determine which students might be in need of extra attention. Initial reports indicate that these efforts are working.

Of course, to be successful, the students have to do their part as well. A willingness to work hard and a desire to succeed can often make all the difference.

It is my hope that your student will someday join our more than 80,000 alumni, and I look forward to seeing all that he or she will accomplish. Best wishes to you and your family for a great summer.

Sincerely,

Dr. Daniel J. Bradley
President, Indiana State University
Campbell Tells the Story—One Image at a Time

Indiana State University photographer Tony Campbell enjoys the part of his job when he captures a fleeting moment.

“It’s freezing the moment in time, telling a story in an image,” Campbell said.

Campbell not only tells visual stories for a myriad of Indiana State activities that range from graduation to field research projects, he does the same with wildlife and other nature photos. Most of Campbell’s vacations take him across the United States so he can shoot photos of black bears, bison, alligators, whitetailed deer, and a variety of birds. He then sells those images through on-line microstock photo sites.

“The enjoyment of this as a hobby is still there; I don’t consider it my business,” he said. “It’s like hunting but cheaper and no seasons.”

Campbell, a long-time bird watcher, began photographing birds about 15 years ago when he began moving from newspaper reporting into news photography. From there, he expanded to taking pictures of animals.

“More than portraits, I want behavioral shots,” he said. “I don’t want the bald eagle sitting in a tree. I want it eating a fish or flying around.”

A photographer must have patience and perseverance in abundance, along with a little luck.

“It’s more of a challenge than taking photos at the University,” Campbell said. “You have no control over your subject.”

To capture those fleeting images, he spends hours waiting, sometimes without results.

Campbell once spent nine unproductive hours waiting to capture photos of a pileated woodpecker pair at their nest with no success.

Sometimes, however, luck finds him.

“Then in the last few minutes they showed up at the same time and I got the image,” he said.

In that photo, one woodpecker clings to the side of the tree, while the other feeds a fledging.

One of Campbell’s favorite photos is one he almost didn’t get. Campbell had traveled to northern Minnesota to a place noted for black bear sightings. He spent hours and hours attempting to capture a clear image.

“They’re dark and they’re in the shade,” he said. “Conditions have to be just right to get a nice, clean image.”

Campbell eventually gave up and packed his gear. As he neared the main highway, he spotted a mother and two cubs, with one of the cubs clinging to the side of a tree. He stopped and grabbed his camera.

“I got two shots and then it was gone,” he said.

That shot has become his most used image in publications.

His other adventures in photography have been closer to home. A cat belonging to a relative of his wife Jennifer had kittens. He took pictures of the kittens and they sold well.

“My wife got our first cat and it just grew from there,” he said.

He has nothing against dogs, but said, “It seems everyone I know has cats.” Recently he did take his first puppy pictures.

Campbell also uses insects and reptiles found around his home for photos.

“We’ve had frogs, praying mantis, snapping turtles, and slugs in the basement that I photograph,” he said.

Campbell’s stock images have been used in hundreds of publications from calendars to children’s books, including one published by National Geographic. He and Jennifer scour bookstores looking for their photos and have a large collection of the books that use them.

The couple and an army of cats live in rural Illinois, just across the state line from Indiana.

Some of Campbell’s favorite shots were recently featured in a gallery exhibit at Hulman Memorial Student Union. Others may be found on-line at http://www.eagleeyeimaging.net/.
Shanel Poole is accustomed to going about things the hard way. Years ago, there were times when the now 27-year-old slept in her car to avoid having to go to her volatile home. During those years she also stayed with “friends” who took her places and introduced her to people in Indianapolis who led her to drugs, run-ins with police, and eventually juvenile detention.

Poole’s sense of rebellion was so strong she was not allowed to complete high school because of the repeated disrespect she showed teachers and administrators.

But that was then. Today, as an Indiana State University Sycamore Ambassador, Poole has learned to be an advocate for those she once showed little respect. An ISU Ronald McNair Scholar, she has recently met and mingled with graduate school deans to explore post-baccalaureate options, including law school, that will prepare her to protect children who behave as she once did.

Poole believes she has acquired an education at ISU that has permanently and irrefutably altered the direction of her life.

“It’s very hard to come from a dysfunctional family, being frequently kicked out of school ever since the sixth grade, and lacking an education,” she said. “Indiana State University has given me the confidence that I am more than a conqueror, that I can do all things. It has given me knowledge.”

Poole, a first-generation college student who earned a GED, left her home in Indianapolis shortly after the death of her father. Making the transition to college student a short time later in the fall of 2005 was difficult for her, she said, because she was still trying to come to terms with her father’s death.

By the end of her freshman year, however, she realized she was doing something right.

“That first semester, I got a letter of congratulations for academic excellence,” she said. “It was pretty amazing for a girl who had been kicked out of school.”

After that first year, Poole returned to Indianapolis for the summer to work at Piazza Produce where she’d worked the previous year as a customer service representative. She entered an essay contest and wrote about her life experiences describing how she would benefit if she won the grand prize of a new car.

“I sat at the computer crying and typing, but I didn’t complain about anyone in what I wrote,” she said. “I just poured out my life story.”

Her brutal honesty helped her win a 2006 Chevy Cobalt.

“It was a changing point in my life,” she said. “It helped boost my confidence in myself. It helped boost my involvement at ISU.

“From that point, everything changed.”

When Poole returned to campus, the story of her car win leaked to the student newspaper and her picture wound up on the front page. That moment in the spotlight helped further boost her confidence, she said, and as that confidence grew so did her accomplishments.

She began networking with faculty, staff, and students and landed a position as a Sycamore Ambassador—the official student ambassadors of ISU. In that position, she worked closely with the ISU President’s Office, the ISU Foundation and Alumni Association, and the Admissions Office.

“The more people I got to know, the more I realized ISU was here to help me,” she said. “It became a second family for me.”

Poole learned about the McNair Graduate Opportunity Program—a doctoral preparation program for first-generation college students and students from groups that are underrepresented in graduate education. Being a McNair Scholar had already enabled her to travel abroad to Guadalajara, Mexico, where she studied for a summer to earn college credit toward her Spanish minor. The McNair Program also paid for her visits to graduate schools to learn more about the advanced degree programs that might better equip her for her future.

During Poole’s third summer back home in Indianapolis, she worked as an intern in Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard’s office. This summer, she will be an intern with the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office.

The 2010 Commencement Student Speaker, Poole is uncertain about what the future may hold. She would like to attend law school, but the impact her story has had on those with whom she’s shared it makes her think she could end up in ministry.

Poole is convinced, through, that none of these opportunities would have been possible without the education she received from ISU.

“I have new relationships, new support teams,” she said. “Not only that, I have some of the most amazing leaders and role models that are not only going to teach me but are going to walk me into a successful future.

“It doesn’t get any better than that,” she said.
Chaleise Everly takes 18 credit hours of classes, holds down a part-time job, and commutes 40 miles each way to ISU from her home in Greencastle, Indiana.

Still, Everly wants to be involved in campus activities and get as much of the true college experience as she can. That’s why the freshman prebusiness major joined CSI: Sycamore. While the acronym plays off a popular TV crime show, it stands for “Commuter Students Involved.”

The organization works to help undergraduate and graduate students living off campus become more involved with campus activities and community service projects, Everly said. It also provides opportunities for commuter students to interact with each other.

“I didn’t want to miss out on fun activities just because I commuted,” Everly said. “I learned about CSI during new student orientation. It was a brand new ‘just in the works’ student organization, and I figured it would be fun to get involved and help it grow.”

About two-thirds of the more than 10,000 students who attend ISU are commuters and the University recognizes the challenges they face, said Michael Gant, commuter project coordinator in the Office of First Year Programs.

“It is important to do everything we can to help commuter students be an integral part of the University community. CSI: Sycamore is just one way that we work to help connect commuter students with the rest of the campus,” Gant said.

CSI members are especially pleased to have found a way to take an active role in community service, a key part of ISU’s mission, by partnering with the Terre Haute Women’s Club Shoe Bus Program, said Heather Thomas, a psychology major from Terre Haute and secretary of CSI.

“I have a family member in the Women’s Club and she asked me whether we could get socks,” Thomas said. “It’s turned into a huge project.”

In February, CSI collected 345 pairs of socks for students in the Vigo County School Corp., Everly said. The student organization also hosted bowling and laser tag events to help commuters have fun.

The CSI student organization is not the only way ISU is reaching out to commuters, Gant said.

The University has two lounges available—in Hulman Memorial Student Union and Cunningham Memorial Library—where students can relax and study between classes. Both lounges have televisions, and the lounge in the student union has a microwave and lockers.

“The lounges are nice. Commuter students don’t have the luxury of just going to their residence hall room between classes,” Everly said.

Thomas feels that the, “lounges really help us feel more at home. It is so cool that we have something like that.”

Another special service for commuters is the laptop computer loan program that helps when students get to campus and realize they have left their laptop computer on the kitchen table 60 miles away. When this happens, loaner laptops are available through the University’s library. Since September 2009, the library has provided laptops to commuter students more than 400 times.

Thanks to a generous alumnus who was a commuter student at ISU, the University even has a way to make education more affordable for off-campus students.

Scholarships of up to $1,000 each are awarded to junior and senior commuter students who are selected based upon essays submitted to explain how the money would help them complete their education. During its first year, the program awarded 14 scholarships totaling $8,000.

“These scholarships are a way to help encourage students to hang in there and complete their education,” Gant said.

For more information about CSI: Sycamore, commuter scholarships, or other services for commuter students, call 812-237-8423 or e-mail Michael.Gant@indstate.edu. Scholarship applications are also available at www.indstate.edu/commuter. The deadline to apply for scholarships for fall 2010 is May 3.
Summer at ISU—Not Just for College Students

With more than 600 classes from which to choose, college students who decide to attend summer school can take advantage of a less crowded campus to pick up needed courses. But summer at Indiana State University is not just for those of college age.

Whether it's a "Mommy and Me" music program for two-year-olds, a science camp for children as young as kindergarten, or the popular Summer Honors Program for high school students, if your ISU student has a younger sibling, you will find a fun and exciting program at Indiana State.

Now in its 42nd year, Summer Honors is a premiere hands-on summer program for talented high school students. Activities range from flying an aircraft, using forensics to create a clay model of a human head, exploring the world of international music, and assessing and preventing sports injuries. In total, Summer Honors offers 14 classes that include the subjects of aviation; cancer research; careers in music; digital electronics; drugs, pharmaceuticals, and medicinals; elementary education; forensic facial reconstruction; health careers in nursing and social work; medieval history; interior architecture/design; sports injuries prevention and care; technology and the environment; theater; and world music.

Summer Honors offers your student the opportunity to stay in a residence hall to get a realistic sampling of college life. Your student also has the opportunity to work alongside some of the same professors they may later learn from and conduct research with if they choose to come to ISU for their college experience.

The program is open to current high school freshmen, sophomores, and juniors with at least a "B" average who are recommended by a teacher, counselor, or principal. The week-long program starts July 18. Applications are due by May 14. Interested students are encouraged to apply early as many sessions fill up quickly.

ISU's other opportunities for non-college age students offer a variety of summer activities.

Summer Science Camp introduces children in kindergarten through sixth grade to the world of science and features unique age-appropriate experiences in ISU's science laboratories and within the local community. Camp Invention offers a week-long enrichment day experience to instill creative problem-solving and critical-thinking skills in children entering grades one through six.

Student-athletes are offered a variety of camps led by ISU coaches to help refine their skills in baseball, basketball, softball, volleyball, soccer, track and field, football, and more.

Young thespians might be interested in "June Bugs," a one-week theater arts camp for ages six to eight, "Theater Rocks" for ages nine-12, or "Theater Techniques for Teens." The musically inclined should check out "Music for Mommy and Me" for children ages two to five; piano camps at three levels for ages six-14; and the Summer Choral Experience for middle school and high school students.

Some programs are limited to students within commuting distance of Terre Haute. To find out more about summer classes, programs, and activities at Indiana State and to sign your student up, visit www.indstate.edu/summer.

For Your Information—Foundational Studies

Indiana State University's newly adopted general education curriculum, now referred to as Foundational Studies 2010, is a refined course of study designed to foster intellectual growth while providing students with knowledge to successfully navigate the complexities of the 21st century.

Successful students will emerge from the ISU Foundational Studies course curriculum prepared to read and evaluate critically, and express themselves effectively. All courses will lead students toward becoming ethically equipped problem solvers; and effective citizens, appreciative of diversity and human expression.

The modified course curriculum of Foundational Studies will not require currently enrolled students to take more credits for graduation. In addition, effective May 11, 2010, the current Information Technology Literacy (ITL) requirement is waived for all continuing students.

Students with questions about Foundational Studies are encouraged to speak with their advisors.
For Kendra Lindsey, politics have been a lifetime love.

“I don’t know why, but when I was four-years-old I was interested in the presidential race,” said the Indiana State University sophomore financial services major.

In spring 2010 Lindsey indulged that passion as she worked as an intern in the Indiana Legislature for Senator Phil Boots, Republican from Crawfordsville, Indiana and Senator Jean Leising, Republican from Oldenburg, Indiana.

“The thing I love is it’s ever changing. I never know what’s going to happen during the day. I make a to-do list for the day and then there are days I don’t get anything on it done,” says Lindsey about her internship.

LouAnn and Brian Lindsey, both Indiana State graduates, described their daughter’s experience as a “great opportunity.”

“Indiana State’s given Kendra an opportunity she might not have had at other schools,” Brian Lindsey said.

Another Indiana State student and two December 2009 graduates also completed internships with the Legislature. Jaclyn Fenwick, senior public relations major from Vincennes, Indiana, served with House Democrats. Kelly Flynn, a December 2009 psychology graduate from Monrovia, Indiana, interned with Senator Earlene Rogers, a Democrat from Gary, Indiana and Senator Richard Young, Democrat from Milltown, Indiana. Analyssa Noe, a December 2009 graduate in legal studies from Wetmore, Kansas, interned for Senator Vi Simpson, Democrat from Ellettsville, Indiana.

Interns work with legislators tracking bills, helping constituents with government agencies, writing letters, and putting together bill packets.

“The State House Internship Program is invaluable for students who are interested in politics because they are given an opportunity to see how laws are made—or how bills are defeated, often for political reasons,” said Dr. Michael Chambers, chairperson of the Department of Political Science. “This gives students some amazing, behind-the-scenes views of one of our most basic political institutions.”

For at least one, it’s allowed her to dream big.

“I’ve definitely been bit by the political bug. I love coming here,” Jaclyn Fenwick said. “It’s opened doors for me and I’ve put my foot in the door. I want to be a state legislator.”

Although Fenwick said she didn’t know much about the legislative process before her internship, she quickly learned.

“To say I was able to take part is an honor, an absolute honor,” she said.

Kendra Lindsey, who plans to attend law school and either practice law or become a lobbyist, said that politics is something about which people become passionate.

“When I talk to people about why they enjoy politics, they’re not sure why but once they get involved they just can’t stop,” she said.

Analyssa Noe, who also interned at the 2008 Democratic National Convention, knows why she enjoys working in politics.

“These are things that affect lives. The decisions they make right now will affect people ten to 20 years out,” she said.

“When you see things in a community you want to be better, you have to know how politics work. It opens doors to changing things, making things better.”

During her internship, Noe was selected as the Senate Democratic Caucus Intern of the Year. With that, she received a $3,000 scholarship she plans to use in working toward a master’s degree in business administration.

Kelly Flynn said she thought her education also prepared her for her internship.

“The whole of my education prepared me for it—to write well, to speak well, to behave professionally,” she said. “It comes from my whole experience as a student.”

Agreeing with Flynn, Noe said, “ISU gave me a really well rounded education. Not only am I educationally prepared, but I’m socially prepared for the work place. It’s not just what’s in your head, it’s how you interact and engage.”

Jaclyn Fenwick, Kendra Lindsey, Kelly Flynn, and Analyssa Noe in front of the Indiana Statehouse during the 2010 legislative session.
ISU has developed a new facilities master plan that offers a vision of how the campus might look in 20 to 25 years. This plan calls for upgrading academic facilities and student housing, constructing a new campus gateway along U.S. 41, and moving several athletic facilities to the planned “riverscape” development along the Wabash River.