

Right clique a right click away for BC3 students seeking jobs

Butler employer: College Central Network a “time-saving measure”

Aug. 17, 2017

(Butler, PA) More than 700 first-time Butler County Community College students this fall will be the first to have their BC3 email addresses automatically transmitted to an internal online job board through which 1,200 registered employers such as Community Options Inc. can promote openings and internships.

New students who then activate their account will join the 1,000 BC3 students and 1,729 BC3 alumni who use College Central Network to seek full- and part-time jobs, seasonal employment and other opportunities, said Aubrey Rader, BC3’s student employment specialist.

While BC3 has offered College Central Network since 2005, the idea to bulk upload BC3 email addresses will assure all students are aware of the free service and eliminate dependency on its promotion by posters and other means, Rader said.

A link to College Central Network existed on BC3’s website, Rader said, “but a student would almost have to ask, ‘Hey, do you have a job board?’ With an online job board, we can say that all students have access to this in one place.”

It’s one place where students will be able to view openings such as for direct support professional positions available at Community Options, whose mission is to provide residential and employment opportunities to those with intellectual disabilities, said Tim Hawk, associate executive director.

“It is a time-saving measure,” Hawk said of College Central Network, “compared to the old screening paper resumes and calling people and waiting for callbacks.”

The online service gives organizations such as Community Options, based in Butler, the opportunity to engage directly with BC3’s students, said Dr. Joshua Novak, dean of student development.



Barbara Yohe, left, is coordinator of program services at Community Options Inc., Butler, which advertises employment openings on Butler County Community College’s College Central Network website. At right is Tim Hawk, Community Options’ associate executive director.

“A lot of local employers are specifically calling us and saying, ‘I would like to hire a BC3 student,” Novak said. “And without a platform like this, it is very difficult for us to communicate that out to our students.”

Dr. Case Willoughby, BC3’s vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, will incorporate a presentation about College Central Network into his Aug. 25 Welcome Day address, Rader said.

“The hope is that not only students hear about this,” Rader said, “but their parents as well.”

Employers registered on BC3’s College Central Network offered 96 full-time jobs, 59 part-time jobs, 14 internships and five seasonal positions as of Aug. 15, Rader said.

“If employers are posting jobs here, they want to hire BC3 students,” Rader said. “Because if they are posting it here, only BC3 students and alumni are viewing it. Students can be pretty confident in knowing, ‘I have a pretty good shot’ because the employer wants someone from this institution or from the program they are pursuing.”

Students seeking federal work-study positions, which according to the U.S. Department of Education are part-time jobs for those with financial need, will now view and apply for jobs only through BC3’s College Central Network. Fifty-one BC3 students participated in the federal work-study program in the spring 2017 semester, according to Kimberlee Matthews, of BC3’s financial aid department.

There are more than 10,000 my.bc3.edu accounts, according to Patrick A. Grosso, BC3’s networking and datacenter application specialist. Student accounts gradually migrate to alumni accounts, which exist in perpetuity, Grosso said.

“When students activate their account, they enter their intended graduation date,” Rader said, adding that alumni who have forgotten their student account information can contact BC3. In addition to job, work-study and internship opportunities, students can use College Central Network to be alerted to job fairs, and find resources on how to develop cover letters, resumes and interviewing techniques, Rader said.

Rader also plans to use BC3’s LinkedIn page for Job Flash Fridays, in which she will alert students and alumni to the latest openings posted on College Central Network at 2 p.m.

Ultimately, College Central Network is about career development, Novak said.

“We recognize that if we only market to students who are looking for a job today, that is a fairly small population of our students,” Novak said. “Those who are graduating and thinking about getting a job is another small subset of our total student population. But if you expand it to students who are looking for a job while remaining in school, or work study, or on-campus jobs, you’ve reached more. The site helps students develop skills necessary to get a job down the road. And that is where we think we can engage new students as early as possible in the process.”