

Doing What Matters for Jobs in Solano County newsletter

Volume 1/Issue 2

SOLANO COLLEGE
CAREER TECHNICAL
EDUCATION

BUILDING CAREERS



SUPPORTING LOCAL
INDUSTRY

WORK EXPERIENCE AND SOFT SKILLS

One of the key employer concerns at the Doing What Matters for Solano County meetings is the need for soft skills training. Solano Community College (SCC) can meet those needs by offering both occupational and general Work Experience (OCED 090 and 091). Students work either paid or unpaid in local industry where a workplace supervisor helps set realistic learning goals for practical real world skills. Students also attend weekly seminars on a variety of soft skills. Class topics include interest surveys, job searches, applications and resumes, email and phone etiquette, teamwork, interviewing, getting along with difficult co-workers, and how to be promotable. These CSU transferable courses can be taken over multiple semesters.

"Many companies find hosting interns is a great way to build their future employee pool," said Work Experience Coordinator Debra Berrett.

For more information on hosting a Solano College intern contact Professor Berrett at debra.berrett@solano.edu.

DEDICATED SOFT SKILLS CLASSES

Solano College has several non-experiential courses covering a wide range of soft skills.

BUS 100 – Work Readiness. Covers the process of assessing the job market and completing a resume and application. The skills needed in the workplace are emphasized along with the social and communication skills, personal characteristics and habits, and expectations of the employer.

OCED 070 – Occupational Soft Skills includes practical elements required to meet employer expectations, create cooperative co-worker interactions and the development of positive personal characteristics for a career technical education job. Includes professional use of popular social media tools. CSU Transferable.

OCED 071 – Occupational Portfolio Development – students identify personal strengths and weaknesses in key skill areas. Professional and educational samples are collected, categorized and evaluated. At the end of the course the students will have developed a useable career portfolio in either digital or hard copy format. CSU Transferable.

Solano College also has a new 12 unit Soft Skills for Technicians Job Direct Certificate. See web site for details.

If you are an employer and would like to offer soft skills classes for multiple employees please contact Professor Debra Berrett, Business Professor Adrienne Cary adrienne.cary@solano.edu, or Maire Morinec (Maire.Morinec@solano.edu) the Dean of School of Applied Technology & Business, to discuss the possibility of arranging one of these courses to be offered at a time and location that is convenient for your workforce.

"People ask me all the time: 'What is it like to be a woman at Google?' I'm not a woman at Google, I'm a geek at Google. And being a Geek is just great. I'm a geek, I like to code."

Marissa Mayer, CEO of Yahoo, former engineer at Google

MORE GOOD NEWS FROM WORK EXPERIENCE!

Solano College Work Experience is teaming with the Solano County Sheriff's Office to begin a Community Service Officer internship program here on campus. The college will pick up the cost of the Live Scan/background check and provide uniforms. Although it will take some time for the background checks, students who begin the process now should have enough lead time to start with the Feb 22 sections of OCED 090. Email Debra Berrett for more information.

CTE STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES – FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREER

Julene Calvo is a homegrown SCC success story. A single mom with a 4-year old son, Julene graduated in May 2016 with A.S. degrees in both Accounting and Office Technology. In addition to classroom work, she learned valuable workplace skills through the SCC internship and federal work study programs. Julene is now one of the newest members of the SCC family after being hired as the Office Assistant in the Work Experience/Occupation Education program. "I really appreciate my education at Solano College, and especially my instructors Debra Berrett, Kevin Anderson, Katherine Knox and Marylou Francesco," said Julene. "I am excited about working with our students. I have been in their shoes. I understand the challenges. But I also have experienced the great opportunities at Solano College."

Haley Thomas was working in low wage fast food industry jobs before finding her way to the Welding Department at SCC. After graduation she joined Local 378 union in Benicia and enhanced her training with advanced projects for TIG/GTAW Gas Tungsten Arc Weld certifications. She is now on a 10-month contract where she will earn \$101,000.

Justin Duhow graduated from SCC in May 2014 after taking courses in Engineering and Drafting, before moving on to U.C. Davis where he earned his degree in Mechanical Engineering. Justin shined brightly at SCC by (among other things) taking first prize at a Statewide Drafting/Design completion using Solidworks software he learned at SCC (See video <https://youtu.be/2zR8Hh6GRZU>). Justin is now a mechanical engineer at Hill Engineering, a company that specializes in measuring and analyzing residual stress in critical components in the aerospace industry. "I love my job and the people I work with!" said Justin.

Do you have a SCC CTE student success story to share? Contact our team at strongworkforceforsolano@gmail.com

DOING WHAT MATTERS FOR JOBS IN SOLANO COUNTY STEERING COMMITTEE

Debbie Berrett – Solano College Faculty Association

Karen Cook - Solano College Faculty Association

Mark DeWeerd – Workforce Development Board

Anna Eng - Bay Area Industrial Areas Foundation

Brian Hooker - Workforce Development Board of Solano County

Diana Lisi - California Teachers Association

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Steve Savage – California Teachers Association

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