

Collin College

NISGTC NEWSLETTER

April 2015 - Special Job Fair Edition

Upcoming EVENTS

April 29: **TRANSFER INFO SESSION** / 11 a.m. -12:30 p.m. / PRC J-113

April 29: **IT JOB FAIR** / 1-4 p.m. / PRC Conference Center

April 29: **MENTORING PARTNERSHIP APPRECIATION WRAP-UP EVENT** / 4:30 p.m. / PRC J-113

RSVP to all events to
TCLINTON@COLLIN.EDU

An Employer's Perspective on **THE JOB FAIR**

Osky Blue's Jon Kendall has been an employer representative in NISGTC's IT Job Fair on several occasions. When asked why he participates each and every time, he said it was for two main purposes: to be involved in our local community and to find qualified people to come work for us.

"I enjoy analyzing the students that they are prepared for the job field in general," Kendall states.

Each time Osky Blue attends the Job Fair, they are actively seeking candidates for currently open positions and have found

new employees directly as a result of the Job Fair. Their only challenge seems to be finding people with WordPress experience.

Their advice to students that they will be meeting this coming Wednesday would be for students to be able to articulate their top three skills.

"We have greatly enjoyed being a part of the Job Fair and how well it has been run," Kendall states.

Be sure to make it out to this year's Job Fair and meet Jon at Osky Blue's table, among more than 30 other businesses.

Wednesday, April 29, 1-4 p.m. at the Preston Ridge Campus Conference Center



How to **WORK A JOB FAIR**

Have you ever been to a Job Fair? Do you know what to expect? Job Fairs are more about networking, or connecting with employers. The goal is to get an interview. You may be offered a quick, 5 minute interview on the spot, or, you may be asked to visit with them at a later date and time. Also, you may be asked for your resume, or, they may refer you to their website to complete an application.

Employers are there to learn about you. They want to know what contributions you will make, your strengths and weaknesses, and your specific career objectives. Can you specifically outline these areas for the employer?

Before the Job Fair, research the employers. Employers are impressed by job seekers who are well prepared. Research the companies' goals,

mission, products/services, customer base and latest news and events. Utilize tools such as the companies' websites and LinkedIn to learn more about their cultures. Also, prepare and practice a brief 30 second self-introduction to use when meeting potential employers. Include your name and skills as related to the position desired. Practice responses to typical interview questions. And finally, update your marketing materials. Have your resume reviewed by the DOL Career Coaches prior to the Job Fair. Is it error free and easy to read? Have you reviewed job descriptions for what you are seeking and included keywords? Update your LinkedIn profile. Employers will check this resource immediately if they have interest in you.

During the Job Fair, dress to impress. Business attire is the best option.

Avoid fragrances and excessive jewelry. Avoid answering your cell phone. You may bring it in with you IF you need to access your calendar, but that should be the ONLY reason your phone is in use. Bring plenty of copies of your resume. However, it is best to apply through the companies' websites PRIOR to the Job Fair. This shows your strong interest in the company. Do not be surprised (or offended) if they do not accept your paper resume. Get business cards or contact information for follow up. And remember to smile! Have a positive attitude. Have patience. Relax and have fun!

After the Job Fair, follow up. Send handwritten thank you cards within 24 hours. Be brief and to the point. Restate your interest in the position/company. Suggest a follow-up appointment. Invite recruiters to connect on LinkedIn.

Student Spotlight

BRANDON AND GENIA TINSLEY

Meet the Tinsleys. Brandon and his wife, Genia, met at work at Citibank in 2005 and later married in Hawaii in 2009. With a long



work history together, the tradition continued as Brandon and Genia both eventually worked for T-Mobile in different departments.

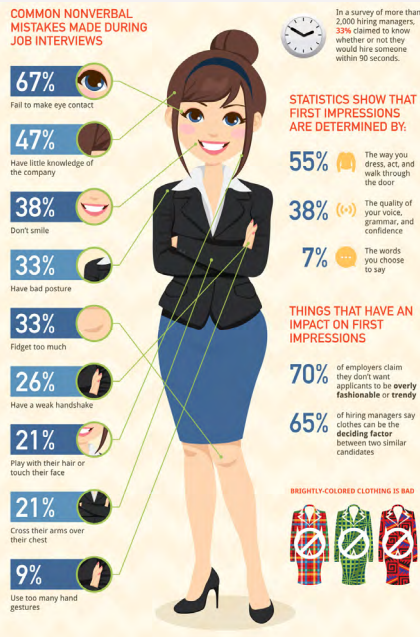
Genia was an Advanced Technical Support Representative (Tier III), and Brandon was a Senior Technical Specialist (Tier IV). Unfortunately both Brandon and Genia were laid off due to the off-shoring of their jobs. They then made a decision as a couple to return to school and enter a retraining program, where their books, tuition and certification exams were paid for by the state through the TAA program. Brandon and Genia then learned about NISGTC from the Texas Workforce Commission, where they participated in career coaching, workshops and the IT Job Fair. It was at the Job Fair where Brandon found his current position.



“We both are extremely looking forward to accomplishing a major task in our lives by graduating together,” Brandon said.

Brandon met a CDI recruiter, Mike Smith, who said he had a job for him in December. They stayed in contact and Brandon eventually interviewed for a Level One

Presenting Yourself at the JOB FAIR



Interviewing TOP TEN TIPS

- RESEARCH THE COMPANY**, its culture, and the position for which you are applying.
- REVIEW COMMON QUESTIONS**. Prepare your answers and **PRACTICE**.
- DRESS PROFESSIONALLY** and with confidence.
- Arrive on time. **NEVER BE LATE**. You should drive to the interview site the day before to make sure you know how to get there and where to park.
- BE PREPARED**. Bring extra copies of your resume, references and pen and paper to take notes. Do not smoke or eat right before you go to interview.
- Show enthusiasm and be authentic to everyone you encounter, not just your interviewer. **GIVE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION**.
- Maintain eye contact and **REMEMBER BODY LANGUAGE**. Avoid bad habits.
- Listen carefully and answer the question asked. **GIVE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES USING THE STAR METHOD**.
- ASK** insightful **QUESTIONS** back to your interviewer.
- FOLLOW UP** after your interview with a thank you card or email.

SEE A VIDEO OF THIS LIST AND OTHER TOP TEN VIDEOS AT YOUTUBE.COM/NISGTC.

For more help prior to your interview, schedule a resume review appointment with a Career Coach.

