



Monday, January 27, 2003

Explore job prospects at career fair

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Oakland University students and alumni seeking co-ops, internships, summer, part-time or full-time permanent employment are encouraged to attend the eighth annual Diversity Career Fair on Thursday, Jan. 30, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Oakland Center Heritage, Oakland and Gold Rooms.

Representatives from about 65 companies such as Bank One Corporation; Beaumont Hospitals; Campbell Ewald; Creative Solutions; DaimlerChrysler; General Motors; Internal Revenue Service; Plante & Moran, PLLC; R.L. Polk & Company; and Volkswagen of America will be present.

"We thought we'd have about 55 employers in attendance, but it may be as high as 70," said Robert Thomas, director of Career Services, which is sponsoring the fair along with Disability Support Services and the African-American Celebration Committee. "I'm not sure what this says about the job market, but it may indicate that some employers expect something positive to happen. There could be a lot of part-time and summer employment possibilities. Some companies also will be looking for full-time employment."

This particular career fair has a broad base with opportunities for freshmen, sophomores and juniors as well as seniors, Thomas said.

"We'll have about 25 alumni in attendance who will be acting as recruiters," Thomas said. "All of our students, not just seniors, should definitely be comfortable with seeking these individuals out and asking questions about how to prepare for the world of work, how to make yourself more marketable and what you need to do to be successful."

Students and alumni should bring extra copies of their resumes. Business dress is recommended.

A faculty panel will hold a discussion for students and alumni on diversity in the workplace from noon to 1 p.m. in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge.

"We wanted to involve the faculty in the fair so they can convey the importance of diversity in the workplace to the students," Thomas said. "There are some practical issues that people need to address when working with a diverse group of peers as well as customers. Students will need to address culture, race and gender diversity in the workplace and be able to communicate with different groups of people."

The Diversity Career Fair is one of many events scheduled during OU's **Career Prep Month** designed to help students find jobs in today's unstable economy. For more information, visit the **Career Services** Web site or call (248) 370-3250.

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