



Friday, September 29, 2000

Career fair gives students a look at health care jobs

Oakland University sophomore Courtney Youngblood, a physical therapy student in the School of Health Sciences, jump-started her career Sept. 27 at OU's Health Careers Job Fair.

At the fair, Youngblood, of West Bloomfield, found many opportunities to gain valuable experience working as a health care aide in hospitals or for a home health care organization. She was among the 150 OU students who met representatives of more than 30 local and national health care employers at the annual event.

"We're trying to show students the many career options available to them," said fair organizer Fran Berg, OU placement coordinator, Placement and Career Services.

Not only did students have the opportunity to learn about the different health care job opportunities in their community, the fair also gave recruiters a chance to get to know future candidates.

"We've heard that Oakland's nursing program is excellent -- that's why we decided to come down here," said Brenda Richardson, human resources manager, Bay Medical Center, Bay City, Michigan. "We're hoping to recruit some registered nurses."

Mary Anne Rizza, human resources analyst, St. Joseph's Mercy of Macomb, also came to the fair to talk to future nursing school graduates.

"There's a real need for registered nurses," Rizza said. "We're also interested in talking to medical technologists, cytotechnologists and physical therapists."

New at the fair this year were recruiters for positions in industrial health and safety, exercise science and mental health.

Bob Thomas, director, Placement and Career Services, says Oakland graduates are in demand. "Ninety-four percent of the 1998-99 undergraduate class reported being employed three to four months after graduation," Thomas said. "Of those employed, 90 percent report being employed in professional jobs."

Oakland's School of Nursing (SON) is planning and implementing new programs, including a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree focused on community-based health promotion and disease prevention. The SON's degree completion program concentrates on the needs and skills of licensed professional nurses who wish to complete a bachelor's degree. In addition, the SON's master's degree program provides students options to prepare for advanced practice roles as certified nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists and nurse practitioners.

The School of Health Sciences offers degree and non-degree programs in health and medically related fields. Academic programs include exercise science, health sciences, health behavioral science, industrial health and safety, medical laboratory sciences and physical therapy.

Oakland University is a comprehensive state-supported institution of higher education located in Oakland County, Michigan. The university has 109 bachelor's degree programs and 63 graduate degree and certificate programs. Dedicated to preparing learners for the 21st-century workplace and society, Oakland University is organized into the College of Arts and Science and the Schools of Business Administration, Education and Human Services, Engineering and Computer Science, Health Sciences, Nursing; and the Honors College.

SUMMARY

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