



REACHING THE G.O.A.L.

The Newsletter for Adult Students at Montgomery College, Germantown Campus

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Ask the Expert: Eric Myren, MC Director of Student Employment Services, on the Student Job Search

What is your number one tip for students who are seeking employment right now?

If I had to boil it down to just one tip, it would be “be prepared”. In a tight job market, employers are not even going to give you a second look if you have a poor resume, don’t know anything about the company, and haven’t considered why you are the best candidate for the position.



What is networking and how important is it to the job search? How can students find ways to network?

Even with all of the technological advances in online job matching systems. Networking is still, by far, the number one way to land a job. The reason: employers feel more comfortable hiring someone that has been recommended by someone they know. Some students are intimidated by the idea of “networking”. But in reality, most students are already very effective at networking with classmates, or through “Facebook” and just need to apply those same skills to their job search. Most students have a much bigger network than they think. When they start counting friends, classmates, teachers, clubs, parents, neighbors, they already have a great group to enlist in their search. The next step is to let the network know what you need. Tell them about the type of work you are looking for, and then ask if they have any ideas or know anyone else that could be of help. It all boils down to asking for help. If this question boiled down to one answer it would be “Ask”.

For adult students who are changing careers after many years, what is the best way to market your previous experience, if it is not related to the new field?

It’s wise in a tight job market to find some overlap with either your previous industry knowledge or skill sets. It’s very difficult to make a leap in both industry knowledge and skill sets - not impossible but much more difficult. So, if you’ve worked in business for 20 years and now want to get into education, look at the skill sets you’ve honed over those years that could be marketable to an educational institution. Obviously, if you’ve completed a degree or certification in a new area, that conveys knowledge and skills. But, generally speaking, employers still prefer some first-hand knowledge or proven skills.

Continued on Page 3: Eric Myren

SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT ISSUE

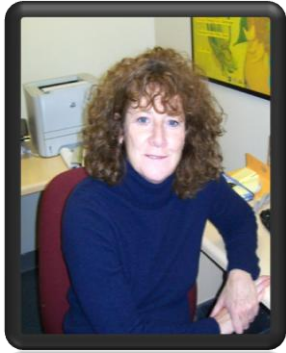
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Upcoming Events at MC-G

- **March 8** – Assessment of Prior Learning Info Session. HT 216; 5:30 – 7PM.
- **March 9, 23 & 30** – UMUC Transfer Representative in Bookstore Lobby
- **March 8 – 14** – Midterm Exams.
- **March 15 - 21** – Spring Break. No classes. College closed March 19.
- **March 25** – Universities at Shady Grove Transfer Representative in Bookstore Lobby.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT ON...
MS. PATRICIA McGLONE
Job Opportunity Coordinator



Hello, Pat! Tell us a little about yourself...

I have been involved in higher education for a while now. I worked for seven years at an organization that provided internships for college students in Washington, DC. I have always enjoyed helping people find work that will enhance their

educational plans and their lives in general. I started out at MC in the co-op office but moved to the Germantown campus as a Job Opportunity Coordinator in the fall of 2007.

What do you do at MC-G, and what services do you offer to students?

I work for Student Employment Services as a Job Opportunity Coordinator. My job is to help students and alumni that are seeking employment. This can entail helping them write a resume, figuring out where and how to look for employment, preparing for job interviews through mock interviews or just talking about career and job options in general. My main aim in working with students is to give them confidence and motivation to pursue the profession that means the most to them.

What is an interesting fact about you?

I come from a family of seven children – I'm the youngest. My extended family is therefore pretty large. I don't see them as often as I'd like but really enjoy hosting them in DC when they come to town.

When would it be a good idea for a student to meet with you?

Anytime they are thinking about employment options for themselves. If they are unsure of how to get a job in their field or need help learning the skills you need to find employment, I can help.

What is the best way for students to contact you?

By either stopping by SA 172 and making an appointment or sending me an email: pat.mcglone@montgomerycollege.edu

**Upcoming Career
Events at MC**



**ASSESSMENT OF PRIOR
LEARNING INFO SESSION**
MARCH 8th 5:30 – 7:00PM
Germantown Campus: HT 216
This session will help students learn how they can earn credit for work experience.

**WEB CAREERS
ROUNDTABLE** MARCH 24th
5:30 – 7:00PM Rockville
Campus: HU 132. *Highlight potential web career opportunities and share information on degree programs offered at MC.*

**NURSING OPPORTUNITIES
ROUNDTABLE**
APRIL 6th 5:30 – 7:30PM
Rockville Campus: HU 206
Information regarding opportunities in this rewarding occupation plus information on MC's Associate of Science in Nursing program.

LAYOFF TO REHIRE
APRIL 22nd 5:30 – 7:30PM
Rockville Campus: CC 108
Employment experts from various organizations will provide on best interviewing techniques and hiring practices.

GERMANTOWN JOB FAIR
APRIL 29th 10AM – 1PM
Germantown Campus: HT
Building. *Meet with representatives from various employers in the area.*

For more information about the Germantown Options for Adult Learners (G.O.A.L.) Program, please contact Amanda McIntosh at 240-567-6976 or goal@montgomerycollege.edu

ERIC MYREN, continued:

In this economy, it is sometimes hard to know which fields are stable or growing. In your opinion, which fields are showing the most promise right now?

We are lucky to live in a very economically diverse area that is also supported by a large federal sector. Although most areas have been impacted by the current economic climate, federal employment has actually grown over the last year. Information technology sector and allied health have stayed fairly stable. Some areas are starting to show new life and we've received more job listings recently in accounting and business related jobs.

How has the job-search process changed in the past several years?

On the surface, technology has revolutionized the job search process with sites like Monster, CareerBuilder, and even Craigslist. However, underneath the hood, things haven't changed as dramatically. Employers still prefer to hire and promote people that they know, are proven, or that have been recommended. Many HR professionals complain that the candidates they receive through the big online job matching systems do not meet the minimum requirements of their job postings. Or, they are inundated with 500 resumes and don't know where to start. Technology has made it easier to discover employers, research companies, and share information. But when it comes to hiring, it's still works more like choosing a mate. Employers want to know something about your background and education, character, skills, personality, ethics, and fit. Currently, I think Match.com is much more advanced than Moster.com for those purposes. So, until the next wave of human resource technology comes around, networking and proactively reaching out to employers is still the best strategy.

What resources are available on-campus to students who need career advice or help with their job search?

There are many great resources on each campus to assist students with their job search. There are Career Counselors to help develop career goals and or direction, Career/Transfer staff to help with career testing, educational planning, and or research, and staff from Student Employment Services to help with resume development, job listings, interviewing, and the job search process.

What can students expect at the upcoming Job Fair on April 29th? What should they bring with them or do to prepare? What attire is appropriate?

They should expect about 30 employers encompassing a range of PT and FT opportunities. They should meet with SES staff in advance to get advice on creating or enhancing their resume. They should check the E-jobs site to see what employers will be attending so they can research the company and be prepared. They can dress "business casual" for the job fair.

Want to Earn Credit for your Work/Life Experience?

Join us on Monday, March 8th for an Assessment of Prior Learning Information Session.

Germantown Campus, Room HT 216.
5:30 – 7:00 PM with Professor Barbara Gleason.

This session will help students learn how they can earn credit for work/life experience. This information session will focus on the DS 150 Portfolio Development class, but will also discuss CLEP testing, credit by exam and other forms of credit for prior learning.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Amanda McIntosh at goal@montgomerycollege.edu or 240-567-6976.

DID YOU KNOW....

...About the Job-Search Database designed for Students and Alumni of Montgomery College?

It's called e-jobs, and it was created to give MC students and alumni the opportunity to search for jobs, post their resumes, and keep informed of employment events sponsored by the college. When you first register on the site, you will upload your resume and submit it for approval. One of our Job Opportunity Coordinators will look it over, and once approved, you will be able to search for and apply for jobs. Students can look for full or part-time jobs, campus employment opportunities or even internships, and many of these are available only to MC students and alumni. Once posted, your resume will be available for prospective employers to view as well. Take the first step by visiting the e-jobs website at: www.montgomerycollege.edu/ejobs, and get started today!