

Engineers Without Borders Educates Students on Career Development

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LEFT: Thank you everyone for your participation

RIGHT: Lily Pettler takes a student through a mock interviewing exercise.



The Sacramento Valley Professional Chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) provided a Career Development Workshop (CDW) at Sac State for students on Saturday, February 28 under the direction of Kirsten Wallerstedt. The six-hour event featured an opening, technical sessions on resume/cover letter writing and interviewing, a lunch presentation, and a closing technical session on networking. The CDW prepares students for events such as on-campus career fairs and regional expositions .

Mars Burnside (Mars) and David Schwegel (David) presented the opening session. Mars emphasized that it is not enough to have worked hard and feel entitled to a great job. One must present themselves as a solution to a problem. David discussed the 30-second elevator speech, hiring decision criteria, types of interviews, and basic public and private sector interviewing techniques.

Laura Gardea and Preston Shopbell presented the technical session on resume/cover letter writing. They emphasized the importance of striking a balance between detailed quantitative accomplishments and brevity. They also emphasized the importance of backing up statements on resumes and cover letters during an interview. They provided hands-on exercises inviting the students to critique sample resumes and cover letters embedded within the Powerpoint™ presentation.

Andy, Mars, and Martin Farber presented the technical session on interviewing. Andy emphasized the importance of coming prepared and providing thought-provoking responses to the question 'do you have any questions for me?' posed by interviewer. He emphasized the importance of inquiring above and beyond what is covered in the company website. Mars challenged the participants by posing a technical question on pump design. Martin provided innovative suggestions for addressing common concerns posed by employers particularly insufficient communication and leadership skills.



LEFT: Mars Burnside challenges the audience with a tricky interviewing question

RIGHT: Martin Farber educates the students on interviewing





LEFT: David, Lily, and Paul prepare to discuss networking.



RIGHT: Paul Dessau displays his "dress for success" shirt with his resume imprinted.

Kristen discussed her career at Turner Construction during lunch and encouraged students to stop by the Turner Construction booth at upcoming events.

Lily Pettler (Lily), David, and Paul Dessau (Paul) presented the technical session on networking. Lily emphasized the importance of being proactive and organized while using face to face and online networking resources. Face to face resources include professionals at professional society meetings and decision makers at informational interviews. Online resources, demonstrated during the session, include MeetUp and LinkedIn. David encouraged capitalizing on communication and leadership opportunities in organizations such as ASCE and Toastmasters. Such opportunities serve as a training ground for an extraordinary leadership position in your next firm. He emphasized the importance of keeping your contact information consistent to improve the chances that past networking contacts can reach you. Paul emphasized the importance of standing out above the crowd with unique artifacts. He removed his suit coat, tie, and dress shirt and revealed his "dress for success" t-shirt with his imprinted resume.

After the technical sessions, several students remained for resume and cover letter critiques and mock interviews with the professionals.

It was rewarding to have such a receptive audience of students. Some embraced technology by taking notes on their laptops.

Thank you students, presenters, sponsors, and attendees for a successful CDW. Special thanks to Joshua Wagner and Jodi-Lyn Borghesi for their hospitality, and Kirsten Wallerstedt for her leadership. Sponsors providing breakfast and lunch included AECOM Technology, Black & Veatch, Starbucks, and Turner Construction. Finally, special thanks to Joshua Wagner for his photography and website expertise. For complete photo coverage of the Career Development Workshop, please visit: <http://picasaweb.google.com/wagner.joshw/EWBCDW?feat=directlink#>.

Students and practicing Engineers can apply the knowledge gained through the CDW at a local event in May focused on stimulating employment and uniting the profession. The event is the Tec Expo scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 1:00 to 6:00 PM at the Sacramento Convention Center (1400 J Street). Event benefits include extraordinary networking opportunities, staffing for companies, employment for job seekers, and "one-stop-shopping" convenience for all participants. For more information or to register, please visit www.tec-expo.com. The event is produced by The Engineers Connection (TEC), an organization connecting innovative employers with technical talent in design, high-technology, manufacturing, construction, and the public sector. Please see separate article.

EWB, YMF, TEC, and other organizations are commended for putting on outstanding programs to encourage Engineers and unite our profession.



Laura Gardea educates students on cover letter writing.



Preston Shopbell educates students on traits of outstanding resumes.



TOP: Andy, Ryan, and Preston network.

BOTTOM: David opens the workshop.

All photography by Joshua Wagner of Sac State.



TOP: Thank you Kirsten Wallerstedt (right) for coordinating this productive event.

BOTTOM: Kristen from Turner Construction (sponsor) describes her career at Turner and encourages all to stop by Turner's booth on Friday. Additional sponsors included AECOM Technology, Black & Veatch, and Starbucks.

