

CAREER CORNER

Issue 9

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What is it that you DO all day?

That's exactly what six current sophomores, the pilot group for Project CLOSE-UP, found out this past month when they shadowed LVC alumni that serve as Career Connections mentors. Read on to discover what they learned and what they advise for the members of the current freshmen class that take advantage of this program.

Project CLOSE-UP, targets first-year students (freshmen entering fall 2009) for a unique opportunity to gain exposure to jobs and workplaces with Lebanon Valley College alumni. The day of shadowing will occur in the spring semester 2010. The program also features a pre-shadowing preparation workshop, post-shadowing reflection and summary of the experience, and a celebration reception at the completion of the program.

Shadowing a professional in the workplace is one of the best ways to learn what a job is really like – from the inside. Your day could include a tour of the organization, talks with various people who work there, and observations of a typical day's duties, meetings or programs. This is the time for asking all the questions that some people wished they had asked before they were hired.

Application Deadline: November 11, 2009. Specific program information and an application form can be found in the Resource Library of JOB CENTER or at the Career Services Office.

Meet the Career Connections Mentors



Tyler Roberts
Media and Production Coordinator, King Street Church
Major: Business, 2002

[Shadowing] can help confirm a student's decision on a career choice. It can also provide a time to discuss how certain classes or content could be valuable in a future career for a student. [Students] are able to see how the education they are receiving can benefit them in a career. I benefited as well by being able to learn more about the new digital communications major at LVC.



Patti Shatto-Young
CFO, River Rock Academy
Majors: English/Spanish, 1992

Shadowing can introduce students to a variety of environments they may never have otherwise known about. I would love share my passion and introduce more LVC students to the field of alternative education!



Jill D. Helsel
Assistant Vice President, Communications Director
Pennsylvania Bankers Association
Major: English/Communications, 2001

I know and appreciate the value of seeing what being on the job is like. The best skills I learned in college came from mentoring and internships. [Students should] do it as much as possible because learning what happens in the "world" will be an asset after graduation. The only way to really learn is by asking.

Joya Morrissey, '00
Owner, Willow Springs Estates, LP
Majors: Political Science/Criminal Justice

Dr. John Biever, '69
Owner/Practicing Psychiatrist, Quitte Glen
Major: Psychology

Timothy G. Long, '82
CEO, Keystone Financial Associates, LLC
Major: Sacred Music

Meet the LVC Student Participants ...

“The Project Close-up experience ... was a big success in my opinion. My day of shadowing was more than I could have asked for. This was a great opportunity to see a different teaching setting. This experience gave me the opportunity to expand my network.” - Shannon Ulrich (Mentor—Patti Shatto-Young)



My mentor was the Chief Business Officer of River Rock Academy. At the beginning of the process I was hesitant to pick her because I did not want to be stuck in her office working on business papers because I am interested in teaching. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that she is a co-founder of River Rock Academy and very knowledgeable about alternative education and my experience with Patti was nothing like I first imagined.

“...the pre-shadowing workshops ... helped with learning to be professional before, during and after the shadowing day experience.

I got to talk to one of the teachers for an extended amount of time... I was even able to see the challenges of student anger and not obeying the rules of the school. I learned about the creation of an alternative education setting and what goes into creating a good, safe place for students that need extra help.”



“I really felt the program was set up very well. I felt that each step from the interview to the actual shadowing day, all went very smoothly, and in all honestly were crucial to prepare for a successful shadowing day, and to get the most out of the experience.” - Violet Witter (Mentor—Jill D. Helsel)

“Before my shadowing experience, I wasn’t quite sure what careers were out there that I might enjoy with a communications major. I now know that anything from editing magazines to simply organizing the company’s paper stock could be involved in a job within the field.”

“The pre-workshops were helpful in that they definitely helped prepare me in getting the most out of my shadowing experience. Without the pre-workshops, I don’t think that I would have discussed my current skills, and future skills with my mentor as much. I probably wouldn’t have asked as much about how they applied to my mentor’s daily schedule either.”

“Another thing I plan on doing since speaking to my mentor is volunteering. Jill advised that volunteering is one of the best things to have for a resume, and really helps out not only serving the community, but also in getting my name out there, and in return networking.”

“For the first hour of my shadowing day, we sat at the table in his office and talked about the SkillScan profile and about my classes and about my hobbies, interests and dreams for the future.” - Joe Jablonsky (Mentor—Timothy G. Long)



“... being a financial planner ...requires ... artistic ability, in the sense of being creative enough to look at a person and see what kind of investments would be best and then figuring out where to put the money. “...creativity comes into play because everyone is different in their tastes ... no two profiles are going to be the same. I never thought about a business type of creativity.”

During the day, I had the opportunity to sit through two budget planning meetings. I also interviewed two other employees and talked to them about what they do. It was interesting to see how one office provides a full range of financial services to customers. Each person in the office has a primary role to play, and yet all know the parts that the others do. Therefore, if one team member is missing for a period of time, the office will still run because the rest know the duties and responsibilities for each job.

The session with Tim and his partner discussing business specifics like hiring and personnel decisions was quite interesting. I was impressed with how much “stuff” is involved in running a business which seems so friendly.



“I found that all of the pre-shadowing workshops were helpful when I went out to shadow... having questions prepared to ask our mentors was a lot easier than trying to come up with them on the spot.” - Katie Costolnick (Mentor—Tyler Roberts)

“In discussing my SkillScan Profile with my mentor, I realized that one skill in my Skills to Develop category that I need to work on is my negotiation skills. Tyler said that his class in negotiation in his MBA was one of the most useful classes he took because of all the negotiating he does in meetings, both at the church and in client meetings for his graphic design company.”

“As a result of this opportunity, I will definitely approach my studies and time at LVC differently. I want to work on learning more outside of my classes, whether it be teaching myself software or doing some freelance work, because a lot of what Tyler learned for his job he learned through real world experience. This opportunity also made me rethink me prospective career path. After shadowing Tyler I realized that I would much rather a job that uses technology to help people like he does. He applies what he knows about the technology and uses it to make processes better and make things easier for people at the church. I also want to explore the possibility of working for nonprofit organization, or maybe an educational museum or a church because I’d like to be able to find a way to use my skills in design and technology to make a difference.”

“My shadowing experience could not have been a better one. My mentor has even given me a reading list and invited me to staff meetings to build up my network. .. This whole experience has been unforgettable..” - Rachel Leer (Mentor—John Biever)



“Dr. Biever and I discussed many topics, including the influence of the therapist’s emotions in therapy, which was the question I hoped to have answered most by the end of the day. We also discussed what kind of classes I should take and how I can use my knowledge of philosophy in many ways to help patients.”

“When I arrived at Quittie Glen, I had started to think about becoming a professor of psychology; when I left Quittie Glen later that same day, the decision had become final. I will be a college professor of psychology after I complete my PhD in psychology. Dr. Biever helped guide me to the realization that further training in sociology could help further my knowledge of social psychology, my tentative concentration for graduate school.”



“This is a great opportunity to explore your career options and broaden your network of people. The workshops build your knowledge on preparing for a career and the process it takes.” - Erica Henderson (Mentor—Joya Morrissey)

I learned so much from this experience because I had limited knowledge about wedding planning. The job requires large amounts of patience, organization and people skills. You need to be able to deal with large amounts of stress and be prepared for any situation that comes your way.

Overall my skills are very developed for this career but if I am going to consider this as a career I need to work on my communication skills and mental and analytical skills. I am not good at selling or promoting anything. On my skill chart I realized that some of the skills that I marked as poor or minor I am actually very good at and use every day without realizing it.

I am going to continue in the study of Elementary Education but I greatly enjoy the event and wedding planning industry. Career Services did a superb job in helping me prepare for this experience.