Shaking Things up For Employers and Job Seekers

Sometimes the best connections are made when the tables are turned.

Each year, IPFW Career Services hosts the Reverse Career Fair, where job candidates conduct interviews with prospective employers. It was during this job fair shake-up that Bee Nguyen and Diipo Owotumi, both IPFW alumni, met representatives from Extension Healthcare, a leading developer of clinical alarm safety and crisis response solutions.

“It was weird,” jokes Nguyen, “because typically if you go to a career fair, you’re supposed to approach, but in the Reverse Career Fair you’re getting approached by employers looking to hire and network with student leaders.”

“I think it was a good thing,” Owotumi says. “Then you’re in control.”

Student worker jobs at IPFW big part of their success

Both Nguyen and Owotumi are now employed as implementation engineers with Extension Healthcare. For them, the transition from college life to the workforce was smooth, thanks in no small part to their new coworkers—20 percent of Extension Healthcare employees are also IPFW alumni.

And while Extension Healthcare warmly welcomed Nguyen and Owotumi to their ranks, both cite opportunities they had as students as being integral to their success when preparing for their careers, including their time working the for IPFW’s Information Technology Services (ITS) as student workers.

“Working there helped me become a lot more patient,” Nguyen says.

“We got to see things from the customer’s end,” agrees Owotumi. “You have to understand what the customer wants and how you can translate that into something real.”

Career Services helpful throughout hiring process

In addition to their time working for ITS, both Nguyen and Owotumi sought out assistance from the Career Services office to better prepare them for finding meaningful employment after graduation.

“While I was writing my résumé, I went to Career Services,” says Owotumi. “I got prepped on what to expect, things to say, questions to ask, how to present myself. They were very helpful, all the way.”

For years, Extension Healthcare has partnered with Career Services to attract outstanding candidates to join their team. Extension Healthcare was founded in 2009 in Fort Wayne and employs more than 110 highly skilled professionals with more than 100 years of combined experience in healthcare IT.

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