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Quick Takes: Advice to Students Seeking Jobs

Linfield Magazine Staff

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Quick takes: advice to students seeking jobs

We asked four local alumni to offer some advice to students who will be graduating and seeking employment in this tight economy. Here are some of their comments.

Lisa (Taylor) Decker '01, senior vice president for investor relations, Homestead Capital

"Emphasize the benefits of a liberal arts college and that you received a well-rounded education, that you are an above-average writer and critical thinker. Employers will feel comfortable with the fact that you have the necessary professional foundation and can be taught the rest. It is a lot easier to teach a new employee the procedures and business plan of the company, than proper communication skills.

"Don't be discouraged if your first job after college is not your dream job. This is an unprecedented time and economy that we may never experience again. Embrace the opportunity to learn and garner experience. Working in a growth period is easy; it is during the challenging times that you really learn. I graduated in 2001 during the last recession, and my first job was at a grocery store for a few months. Do not be shy about calling on every contact you have. It never hurts to make contact with companies and make the "ask"; the worst they can say is no."

Gale Castillo '73, president of the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber

"I would advise students to identify a business organization or local chamber of commerce to begin the networking process. Students can also volunteer for an organization in their targeted industry. This creates a work reference and also

positions them to apply for any opening that may become available. If the student applies for a position, the student will have a lot of information. The employer will also know something about the student's ability to fit in and perform.

"Students entering the workforce need to be able to express an idea clearly both verbally and in writing. If a student has any concern about this, they should take classes to work on these important skills. Students also need to be able to work effectively with others."

Wayne and Linda (Adams) Case '62 and '68, CEO and corporate secretary, Schmitt Industries Members of the Linfield Business Advisory Council

Linda: "Students need to use their networking skills with families, friends and people they have met. If they put their name out there and people are familiar with them, that will be a big help in getting a job. When I returned from the Peace Corps I took whatever job I could find. I have had a variety of experiences in banks, high tech industries, purchasing, recruiting, human resources and investor relations."

Wayne: "I can't over emphasize the importance of being able to effectively communicate your ideas. A lot of people have great ideas that go nowhere because they are unable to communicate them. I am a great proponent of internships and this is one way Linfield is strong and should continue to increase the hands-on experience for young minds."

Opportunity grant cuts hit neediest students



Andrew Falla '11

Andrew Falla '11 dreamed of attending Linfield College since he was in elementary school. To achieve that dream he washes dishes in Dillin Hall, takes out loans and applies for grants.

But that dream was in jeopardy in January when he and 400 other Linfield students learned that their Oregon Opportunity Grants would be reduced by \$80 this semester.

While \$80 may not seem significant, for many of these students it can determine whether or not they stay in college. Oregon Opportunity Grants are awarded to some of Oregon's neediest and most vulnerable students, whether they attend public or private colleges.

That's why Linfield has committed to cover the more than \$32,000 needed to ensure these students can remain enrolled. Linfield is asking faculty, staff, alumni

and friends to help by supporting a student with a gift of \$80. This is not the first time the Linfield community has stepped up to help students. A funding crisis in Oregon in the fall of 2002 resulted in major cuts to Oregon Opportunity Grants. Linfield trustees, alumni, faculty and staff donated \$90,000 to cover cuts in financial aid.

Falla has a family connection to Linfield. His parents, John and Bonnie (Hufstader) Falla '83 and '79, met as Linfield students, but they didn't get to see their son enroll. By age 10, Falla had lost his mother to cancer and his father to a hunting accident. Family helped to raise him, but he is responsible for college expenses.

For more information on Linfield students receiving opportunity grants or to sponsor a student go to:

www.support.linfield.edu/oog

