

The Fork in the Road Challenge



In April, Career Services began a new initiative called "The Fork in the Road Challenge" to assist graduates in finding employment. The CSAs encouraged the grads seeking employment to come by the campus and meet with them. During the meeting, the CSA and grad would discuss any challenges they may have been facing with finding job leads or obtaining an interview. The CSA would also conduct a resume review with the grad to make any changes necessary in case of new certifications or any other changes and would sometimes even conduct a mock interview.

The CSA would then print off at least 10 copies of the grad's resume on nice resume paper and make a plan with the grad around the employers they were interested in. The grad would visit each employer, drop off a resume, and if possible, speak to the hiring manager. With this approach, many grads were able to interview either right on the spot or schedule a future interview.

The totals for April are as follows: 19 grads took the challenge, 7 had interviews, and 5 were HIRED! To celebrate having the most graduates per campus take the challenge (10 took the challenge, 3 had interviews, and 2 were hired), the Princeton campus was awarded a giant fork and a pizza party!

The challenge was so popular it was continued through May and a new benefit was added: Graduates who take the challenge will be given a gas card to help with their travel expenses.

Congratulations to all the grads who took the challenge and to Princeton for winning during the month of April!

Upcoming events

 Martinsburg: Blood Drive and Open House
Wednesday, June 7.

[Go to calendar...](#)
[New event...](#)

Check out the Calendar feature on Moodle! We will be posting upcoming campus events here, so keep an eye out for fun events happening near you!

Staff Spotlight: Emily Simmons, Student Success Coach

Emily is the Student Success Coach for those enrolled in the Medical Administrative Assistant Program and the HSA-MAA Program. Emily graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in Psychology and minor in History. While living in Pittsburgh, she greatly enjoyed running through the trails of Schenley Park, attending Pitt football games at Heinz Field, and going "dahntahn" for lots of fun events held in the city. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time outside, visiting family, and playing with her dog, Digby.



THE VALLEY COLLEGE ONLINE GAZETTE

Student Success Story: Erin Basham

Student Erin Basham answers questions about her recent hiring!

What activities did you undertake in the job search process?

I found the position on indeed.com and applied for it through the website.

What exact steps led to you landing this particular job?

Applied online, they called me in for an interview, and I got the response 4 hours later.

How did you find this particular job?

I searched online to find positions within my field and it popped up.

How much attention did you pay to perfecting your resume?

Took a lot of time to make sure that it was professional looking and used Nathan's feedback during Career Development to add to it.

How much did you invest in attending sessions with your Career Planning Advisor?

I attended the Career Development mock interview with Nathan.

How much did you invest in preparing for in-person interviews?

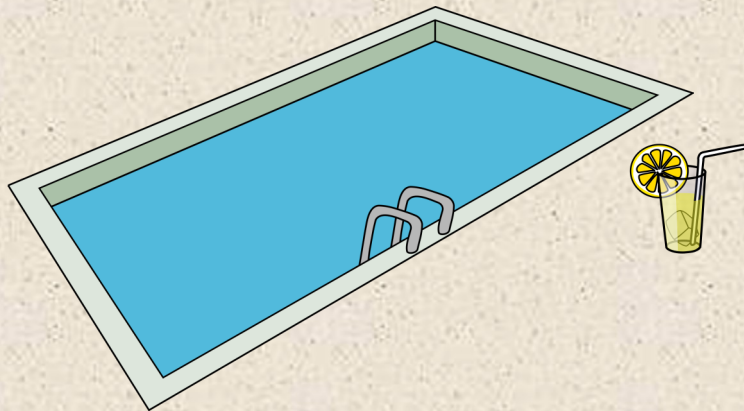
Practiced in front of my children and husband.

What would you say your new employer would say was the reason you landed this job?

My determination and the Billing and Coding Diploma.

What advice would you give to her classmates to maintain motivation or persistence in this process?

Keep trying and don't give up. It's exhausting work, but as long as you keep trying, you will persevere.



Be on the lookout for a special printed copy of the online gazette in your mail box! We just want to give you a little something extra to share with your friends and family~ Valley Pride goes a long way!



Like our Facebook page! Facebook.com/ValleyCollegeOnline