

What's next after university?

by Gloria Welton



Dr. Wendy Carroll, Associate Professor of Human Resource Management, challenged her students to think about their options after university.

A group of about 40 students from the **Human Resource Management** program at UPEI tackled a project called *What's next after university?* This project was marked as their final exam.

Students produced reports and planned an expo where they presented their findings in March. All UPEI School of Business students were invited to attend the expo, which was called **Career Planning Day**.

Important questions to explore

Dr. Wendy Carroll, Associate Professor of Human Resource Management, says it is important for graduates to find the answers to the following questions:

What is next?

What does work look like for me?

"This is the first time that students in this program were required to organize an expo," says Dr. Carroll. "Not only did it challenge the students to research and explore options after university but they were able to pass their findings on to other students."

The students surveyed other students to determine the most important areas to consider when looking at what's next after university.

The following areas were considered important when looking at employment options:

- Local, national and international careers
- Successful business networking
- Careers of the future
- Your rights as a new employee in the workplace
- Getting ready for the interview
- Self employment and other flexible work arrangements
- Does your personality fit your job choice?
- How to apply to federal and provincial jobs.

Personality testing

Susanne Canvin is a new graduate with a Bachelors of Business Administration.

"It is important to know your strongest job traits," says Susanne. "We found out that right here on campus you can go to **Career Services** to access personality tests such as Myers-Briggs and Strong Interest Inventory. These tests will help you look at what traits stand out and how that information can be matched to job choices.

"We also learned that many companies administer personality tests as part of their screening process when hiring staff. Knowing what your strong suits are will help you to be comfortable when going through this hiring process."

Working for the provincial government

Karen Milligan plans to finish her degree by 2013. She was on hand at the expo to show others how working for the government can provide employment after post-secondary and to talk about the policies in place to help further your education while on the job.

Karen is an employee of the provincial government at the O'Leary Community Hospital. "I realized there was no room for advancement in my present job. To qualify for other jobs within government I needed further education. I decided to go back to school. I travel to Charlottetown for my studies, and my employer is good to give me the flexibility and support I need to reach my educational goal," says Karen.

Research pays off

During this event, UPEI students right out of high school up to age 57 were on hand to pass on what they learned about their options for the future. They found the process to be very useful and helpful in their own career search.

Many of the students were already attached to the labour force as they were employed full-time or part-time while in their studies. Many said they wanted to continue their education after graduation.

They said their experiences in school and on the job, as well as the discoveries made while working on this project were helping them to form a plan to determine what is next after university.

For more information, contact **Dr. Wendy Carroll** at 566-0573 or e-mail wcarroll@upe.ca



Correction

In the May 2010 issue on page 4, the picture with the story about the PERCÉ award was incorrect.

Here is the correct picture, showing from left: Francis Thériault, Manager of RDEÉ PEI, with Gabriel Arsenault, PERCÉ Award winner, and award sponsor Louise Comeau, Executive Director of the SBDA.

See the complete story on our website - May archives page 4.

