

CF Talent Center paves the way

Free career services to new graduates, alumni and professionals in transition



Pam Griffiths, newly laid off, utilizes the TC in hopes of finding employment.

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It's an exciting moment when graduates finally get to throw their caps into the air and celebrate their success. But after the caps come down, graduates need to put their education to work.

The Talent Center at CF is available to help graduates land that job towards a career.

TC is a free career service provider, located in Building 42, open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Its purpose is to connect students, graduates and professionals towards the right jobs that individuals need and employers are looking for.

The many services that TC offers include help building resumes, preparation for interviews, workshops, internship programs and teaching how to market oneself to employers.

TC offers these services with hands on experience that include one on one coaching.

Graduates can meet with three of TCs professional resume consultants: Geraldine Phillips, Heather Gamble and Leisa Miller. They provide individuals with online tools to create resumes based on specific jobs they might be applying for.

TC receives calls from employers on a daily basis seeking CF grads to employ. TC sends out these messages to individuals via email or the Student Networker, which are fliers posted around the school. Graduates can start drafting a resume that will make a right fit towards specific jobs. Then TC helps individuals by critiquing their resumes to make sure they will be successful towards each potential job and throughout their careers in the long run.

Individuals can meet with Jerry Flanders, the director of TC, to learn how to effectively prepare for job interviews. He or one of the TC coaches will teach individuals the importance of making a good first impression by dressing appropriately. Individuals will also learn how to answer the type of questions employers ask potential employees. Mock interviews are offered as a way to help individuals practice beforehand, to nail those questions that will help build their confidence.

"Now that I got my degree, I'm valuable to an employer," Flanders said. "After the recession, employers realize they want people with work experience and education."

The workshops at TC help individuals think deeper about education and experience. The workshops are available to those with an associate's

degree or bachelor's degree. They help build soft skills and resumes. Individuals will learn how to present oneself before employers, and how to connect with employers on social media. The last detail mentioned will teach individuals how to use Facebook in a smart way, and how LinkedIn helps them get noticed by employers.

Refocus and Reconnect is a workshop directed mainly towards professionals who have 10 years of experience. The workshop helps seasoned individuals refresh their resumes, and teaches them the importance of using social media, such as LinkedIn.

"They are for people who are coming back to the area, who have been laid off, or are looking for another job," Phillips said.

Furthermore, TC offers paid internships to graduates who need job experience but have a hard time finding a job. TC is partnered with CareerSource: located in Citrus, Levy and Marion counties.

"CS's program funds 12 week internships for graduates as they work for an employer," said Bonnie Hays, CF internship coordinator. "Employers are motivated to hire because CS pays interns' wages. After the 12 weeks are over, the intern gains experience on their resume, and hopefully an employer will hire them after the internship."

Lastly, individuals who participate at TC will be able to put all of their coaching into practice at job fairs. Events usually take place at the Klein Center. Employers set up table stations and graduates go introduce themselves. They share their resumes and possibly land a job.