

SWOSU's Hosts First Business Specific Career Fair

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More than 140 Southwestern Oklahoma State University business students recently crowded into the Memorial Student Center Ballroom to visit with prospective employers in industries including banking, insurance, technology solutions, food production, military and entertainment.

The initiative, led by SWOSU Career Services Coordinator Savannah Schones with support from business professors Jonna Myers and Amanda Evert, was a first step in adding more discipline specific career fairs to the spring schedule.

“A benefit of the discipline specific career fairs is we can guarantee employers will see students with the academic backgrounds best suited to their employment needs,” Schones said. “In this first business specific career fair we had students in management, marketing, entrepreneurship, finance and accounting which were ideal job candidates for this group of employers.”

The business career fair offered students the opportunity to start considering their future career plans.

“This was a great experience for me. I walked away with two companies who are genuinely interested in considering me for future positions,” said senior student Sara Perkins. “I really had not expected to have that type of success this early in my job seeking efforts.”

Students also said the experience helped them start thinking about the importance of getting serious about career planning.

“I am leaving here realizing I need to start actively looking for meaningful internships in my career field,” freshman Bailey Patton said. “I am going to start doing my research about opportunities in my hometown area.”

Realizing that the Business Career Fair benefits all business students, the 2018 Career Fair committee is already starting to make plans for future events.

“My students had the chance to meet and interact with some of Oklahoma’s most premier organizations. The lessons learned at events like the Business Career Fair are impossible to recreate within the walls of a classroom,” Myers said. “I cannot wait to see how these connections will blossom into real employment opportunities in the future.”

The goal for the future events is to dramatically grow the number of perspective employers.

“We have proven that the Everett Dobson School of Business and Technology can produce sharp, well-prepared student who excel in the career fair environment,” Evert. Said. “Our next step is to dramatically grow the number of employers who attend. SWOSU business students are exceptional and we want them to make connections with exceptional career opportunities.”

For more information or to participate in future events, contact Schones at 580-774-3233 or savannah.schones@swosu.edu.