Spotlight Strategy: Cultivate Relationships with Community, Business and Industry Partners

Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology

Launched in 2008-2009, Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology's (CPI) "Career Connection" tool is an interactive, online system that connects CPI students and alumni with local businesses seeking to fill open positions.

According to the director of secondary education, the web-based tool, which was modeled after such websites as Careerbuilder.com and Monster.com, was initiated in response to the job placement needs of CPI graduates and adult students. Since CPI does not have its own guidance staff, the administration wanted to develop a user-friendly tool to help students find employment in their chosen career paths.

Employers who wish to post job opportunities submit their information to CPI's director of adult and postsecondary education who reviews and approves the posting before it is activated on the website. Positions are organized by career field, including Health Careers, Construction Occupations Cluster, Transportation – Highway and Heavy Construction, Culinary Arts and Service Occupations.

Students and alumni who choose to apply for a position posted on Career Connection can submit their applications, which include a cover letter and resume, via the website. The staff at CPI reviews individual applications to determine appropriate matches, and approved applications are sent to potential employers. Applications must be approved by CPI before being forwarded to employers, and applicants are asked not to contact the employers directly. Although targeted toward CPI graduates and adult students, employers are also able to post seasonal help opportunities for secondary students ages 16 and up.

The staff at CPI is currently collecting data on job placements facilitated by the Career Connection tool. CPI would like to continue enhancing the system, for example, by expanding the geographical area of job postings to include the surrounding counties.

Contact Information:
Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology
540 North Harrison Road
Pleasant Gap, PA 16823
Ph: 814.359.2793
Website: http://www.cpi.edu

Mrs. MaryAnn Volders, Director of Secondary Education
Email: MAVolders@cpi.edu

Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology (CPI) is located in Pleasant Gap, Pennsylvania. As a part-time career and technology center, it enrolls approximately 500 students in grades 9 through 12 and offers 19 career and technical programs. CPI serves three school districts.