

Career education, planning and preparation go hand in hand

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In today's higher education environment, it is not only important to prepare students for careers, it is the responsibility of educational institutions to help students connect the dots between their studies and success in the outside world. Students must fully understand the competitiveness of today's business marketplace and what it takes so that they can be successful.

A recent Wall Street Journal report on law school graduates said that more than 90 percent of students who participated in internships found employment upon graduation.

At the undergraduate level, it is a time for students to explore, and not in just one discipline. They should not rule out participating in an internship outside their area of study, or even pursue an internship abroad.

Many colleges and universities have established career development offices staffed with career advisers who actively help arrange internships for students; teach soft skills with mock interview and job search training; provide guidance for crafting resumes; and host on-campus employer job recruitment events, career fairs and professional networking events.

At Nova Southeastern University, for example, one-on-one career counseling is offered, and students who participate in career development programs during their first three years are guaranteed an internship during their senior years. We are able to make this guarantee through partnerships we have established with alumni and corporate supporters of the university.

For a full and rich educational experience, students must blend high academic achievement with career preparation. To that end, leaders of higher education are obligated to ensure their students are well prepared to enter the global economy.

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