



BEYOND 2K: *Learning and Working in a Global Economy*



April 24, 2001 - Farmington,

What will it take to not merely survive but flourish in today's global economy? Which programs have succeeded in opening up career and life opportunities for people in challenging circumstances? What are the recent approaches in education, counseling, and business? "Beyond 2K: Learning and Working in a Global Economy," a one-day conference presented by *Connecticut Learns and Works*, brings together an exciting group of speakers and topics with answers to these questions.

All participants will hear keynote speakers:

Bill Breen - Senior editor of *Fast Company Magazine*, Breen writes the articles that introduce readers to tactics, tools, and real-world ideas - all of which aim to help business people become better on-the-job performers. *Fast Company* achieved the 1998 National Magazine Award for General Excellence (1998) and Magazine of the Year (1998) by Advertising Age.

Jim Vicevich - Business and personal finance reporter for NBC Channel 30 will bring his professional expertise and views on today's and tomorrow's business world.

John Tirinzonie - As the Director of Job Development at the Connecticut Department of Labor, Tirinzonie will provide new insights on the State's current and future economy and job market, as well as regional outlooks throughout the current decade.

You will be able to select the remainder of your day's program from the presenters and workshops detailed below:

Eladio Amores - *Workplace Happiness: Pathways to Independence*. As Senior Manager for Marriott International Community Employment and Training Programs, Amores is responsible for implementing "Pathways to Independence," an innovative, customized job training, placement and retention program for the hospitality industry. Its goal is for participants to learn skills necessary for job retention and career progression. Those completing the program are offered full-time positions with benefits. *(continued on page 4)*



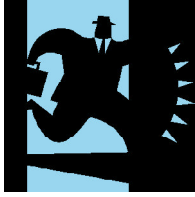
We Have Changed Our Name!



The State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (SOICC) has changed its name to the Connecticut Career Resource Network (CCRN). As with SOICC, the goal of the CCRN is to promote improved career decision-making by students and other individuals, and to support lifelong learning. This will be accomplished by improving access to career and occupational information for individuals, and those whose job it is to assist those individuals, so that they can make decisions throughout their lives based on the best information available. Information will be provided through publications, workshops and conferences, web-based information systems, training, and marketing of career-related materials.

CCRN will continue to promote career development and guidance issues through its own products and services as well as cooperation in the production of related sources. We are currently working on the next edition of *Connecticut Career Paths*, updating the licensed

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Successfully Attending a Job Fair

Job Fairs are a popular tool among job seekers and employers alike for fulfilling employment needs. To find out about upcoming job fairs, contact a local Connecticut Department of Labor office, visit www.ctdol.state.ct.us, or check a local newspaper.

It is up to job seekers to approach the representatives, introduce themselves, and describe their employment goals. Many participants are ill-prepared to recommend themselves, and should take the steps below to have a productive job fair visit:

Do Your Homework. Before attending any job fair, obtain a list of participating companies and research key information on those firms in which you are interested. Recruiters will ask, “What do you know about us?” and you should have an answer prepared.

Know What You’re Looking For. When a recruiter asks “What are you looking for?” be prepared to answer. Recruiters are not willing to waste their time with people who are in a “what job pays the most” attitude or are unsure of what they want. Even if you can’t narrow your career choice to fewer than three, identify only one to each recruiter. If you have more than one résumé, separate each version by colored folders so you can easily pick the appropriate one. Saying, “Oh, that’s the wrong résumé,” and trying to take it back could ruin an opportunity.

Bring Extra Résumés and Business Cards. Copiers are generally not available and finding one takes time away from your job search. Try to determine the number of companies attending and bring at least one résumé for each company. Note that some companies may request additional copies in order to forward them on to different departments. If you do happen to run out of résumés, exchange business cards with the recruiter to ensure that your name will be remembered. Business cards are also helpful when networking with other job seekers.

Get the Recruiters’ Business Cards. This allows you to address follow-up calls and letters to a specific person. Take the time to jot down notes on the back of the card about what you discussed. When you talk to the recruiter again, you will be able to jar each other’s memory by saying, “I remember you, we were talking about marketing research opportunities.”

Present Yourself in a Professional Manner. Don’t make the mistake of showing up in casual attire. Recruiters may consider you if you’re in business casual, but professional attire gives you a winning edge and reflects your motivation. Under no circumstances should shorts, jeans, sandals, T-shirts, or sneakers be worn. Be polite, courteous, and pleasant to everyone you encounter.

Approach Employers Individually. If you choose to carpool with a friend, arrange a meeting time and split up while visiting companies. Showing up in a group makes a recruiter doubt that you are serious about your job search efforts. Do not bring children. An employer will be reluctant to hire someone without reliable daycare.

Go Early. Usually the slowest time of a job fair is the first hour, so arrive early to spend more time with employers. Give yourself at least an hour to walk through and talk to the company representatives. The worst time to arrive is the last hour; some employers will have found their new employee and left early.

Visit as Many Companies as Possible. Pick up a list of the employers exhibiting and visit all of them. Don’t skip a company because of its name or type of business. A hospital may have openings for clerical staff and a manufacturer may be looking for a nurse. Check with employment agencies – you may find the company you wish to work for is represented by one of them.

Talk to Other Candidates. While standing in line, take time to talk to other candidates. Someone may have turned down a position you would find rewarding, or have information on a company in which you are interested. A job fair is a perfect opportunity to establish new networking contacts.

Taken from Your Job Search Guide, available on-line at www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi

Connecticut Department of Labor Job Fairs 2001

Each year, the Connecticut Department of Labor sponsors at least twelve job fairs throughout the State, averaging 60 to 100 companies at each event. Mark the dates below on your calendar and look for announcements on more locations, including New Haven and Waterbury. For more information, call Deb Barr at (860) 263-6280 or visit www.ctdol.state.ct.us.

Southington

March 8th, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
AquaTurf

Manchester

March 31st, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Manchester Community College

New London

May 10th, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Connecticut College

New Minimum Wage for Connecticut Workers

	CT		
	CT	Waiters	U.S.
January 1, 2002	\$6.70	\$4.74	\$5.15
January 1, 2001	\$6.40	\$4.74	\$5.15
January 1, 2000	\$6.15	\$4.74	\$5.15
January 1, 1999	\$5.65	\$4.35	\$5.15

The Connecticut minimum wage was increased by twenty-five cents as of January 1, 2001, and will increase by an additional thirty cents in January 2002. Due to a tip allowance, food server wages will remain at \$4.74 an hour and for bartenders at \$6.15 per hour. Connecticut is one of ten states that maintains a minimum wage higher than the national rate.

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occupations data, and collaborating on the development of a new Web-based application called the *Job and Career Connection*, which will be available on the Department of Labor's Web site.

Under the Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998, many of the activities carried out by the NOICC/SOICC network were transferred to the U.S. Department of Education. The new organization is being called America's Career Resource Network (ACRN). Its mission is to provide school administrators, teachers, counselors and job developers with the resources and training they need to assist learners, from youth to adults, to make informed decisions about career choice and preparation.

The 1996 selection of the Labor Department as the agency to carry out the career information responsibilities of the Perkins legislation in Connecticut emphasized the understanding of all involved that the products and services provided in the past should continue as we transition to activities under the ACRN.

For more information, contact Carol Bridges at (860) 263-6258, or carolyn.bridges@po.state.ct.us.



Connecticut Girls and Technology Network

The Connecticut Girls and Technology Network held its first *Girls and Technology EXPO* at the University of Connecticut in Storrs on September 14, 2000. The presenters, all women, represented a broad range of careers, from genetics to web design. Eighty 7th grade girls, from many towns and districts, had a chance to meet, to take apart computers, and to ask career questions of the women presenters. The conference was honored with the presence of Connecticut's Lieutenant Governor, the Hon. M. Jody Rell.

The Connecticut Girls and Technology Network, hosted in New Haven at Connecticut Voices for Children, began two years ago as a statewide collaborative of business people, educators, and policy makers. Their goal is to provide opportunities for girls in all areas of technology (arts to engineering), to benefit them both as individuals and as members of the highly competent workforce needed in Connecticut.

For more information, contact Jean Rozett at Connecticut Voices for Children, (203) 498-4240, or jrozett@ctkidslink.org.

Beyond 2K Conference

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Mary Jacobsen - *Loving Them as They Are: Breaking the Cycle of Hand-Me Down Dreams.* Listen to this author and career coach explain how our first job assignments come from our families, and how this earliest work history influences adult career goals and values. Deepen your understanding of how families communicate, why influences can be hidden and subtle yet also powerful and long-lasting, and the impact of gender roles and sibling order in "matching" children with the family's needs.

Brian Jud - *Finding the Hidden Job Market.* Jud, President of Publishing Directions, has written four internationally distributed books on career transition, and has twenty years of marketing and corporate sales experience. He will help you explore the hidden job market to increase your chances of landing the perfect job and eliminate competition.

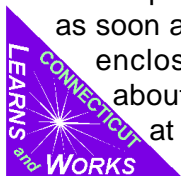
Hot Careers in a Hot Market - A panel discussion of the leading jobs in technology, health, and engineering. Led by Connecticut Hospital Association and Connecticut Innovations.

Innovations in Education - A panel discussion of innovative programs in education promoting science, math, performing arts, and technology. Hosted by Learning Corridor, SMART (Science and Math Are Really Terrific), and Stamford I/T Academy.

Meaningful Connections - Panel discussions with companies and services that work with untapped populations such as at-risk youth, mature workers, the disabled, and ex-offenders. Hosted by SCORE (Service Core of Retired Executives), MPI, Inc., Senior Job Bank, Business Leadership Network, SoBe Beverages, and CIP (Governor's Career Internship Program).

Beyond 2K: Learning and Working in a Global Economy conference will be held at the Farmington Marriott in Farmington, Connecticut on April 24, 2000, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Interested persons are encouraged to register as soon as possible; the registration form is enclosed. If you have any questions about the conference, contact Wanda at (860) 263-6283, or by e-mail at wanda.izdebski@po.state.ct.us.



Reference Shelf

Hand Me Down Dreams

by Mary Jacobsen, \$22.00

"We're so proud you were promoted to program director. Did you hear your cousin Betty is pregnant?" Most of us already know that our families can give great irritation along with support, but few seriously examine just how much they influence our career choices and work relationships. Since most people spend more time planning their careers with their family than with a career counselor, recognizing this influence is most important for developing a fulfilling career.

Mary Jacobsen takes a fresh approach in Hand Me Down Dreams: How Families Influence Our Career Paths and How We Can Reclaim Them to examine how families not only affect what we choose for a career, but also our roles with co-workers and career progression. She points out that parents send mixed messages to their children even when they are trying not to, and emphasizes that children learn more by what parents do than by what they say. A special section offers questions to better understand your own career goals and your parents.

Mary Jacobsen will be a presenter at the April 24th "Beyond 2K" conference.

"Nothing in life is to be feared.
It is only to be understood."

- Marie Curie

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