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Professional Development Critiques

Critique on NYC Business Link DSS/HRA Brooklyn Career Fair

The DSS/HRA Brooklyn Career Fair on November 20th, 2024, offered a valuable opportunity for students and job seekers to connect with many potential employers. The event was held at New York City College of Technology and provided a convenient and accessible location for attendees and employers to meet and come together. As many as 32 different employers were at the event, providing a diverse variety of career opportunities for attendees to engage with and find potential matches. The event had a diverse range of professionals that attendees were able to meet as well as a great, pre-fair preparation session that was provided by the school for help the students and attendees prep for interviews and each meet. The career fair focused on connecting job seekers with employers.

Employers such as Brooklyn Community Services Children's Aid, Housing Works, Tribeca Pediatrics amongst many others provided great information into each field that pertained to them while trying to attract talent that matched their needs. Attendees had the opportunity to explore a variety of career paths while also being at an event that allowed for great networking opportunities. The fair emphasized the importance of building relationships with professionals in the field. Valuable insights, potential job opportunities as well as valuable mentorships can be gained from network relationships. The professionals and employers all highlighted the importance of resumes and cover letters. The pre-fair prep faculty provided guidance on crafting effective resumes and cover letters, as well as preparing for interviews. Employers emphasized understanding the specific requirements of different job roles and tailoring applications, accordingly, giving job seekers and attendees increased chances of landing job interviews. The event also gave great insight into hiring trends and challenges that job seekers can be aware of when applying to certain industry or fields. Seasonality and downturn in economies can greatly affect certain careers. By staying informed about industry developments and trends, job seekers can better position themselves for future career advancement and seek the right position for themselves. The value of professional experiences and internships was also noted as being just as valuable as academic studies. One downside of the event is the magnitude and great number of employers all interviewing and showcasing themselves together, not allowing for individual time and a better space for personal interviews for attendees and employers alike.

The career fair and professional development event aligns perfectly with the internship course from the business of fashion degree path from NYCT. While the career fair did not directly align with specific business and fashion opportunities, preferably being held for human resource and school opportunities, attendees gained great practical experience and attained a sense of the job seeking process. The emphasis on effective communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills, which are essential for success in any field, was reinforced through the various employers. Many also emphasized the broader skills and knowledge gained through academic studies. Additionally, the opportunity to network with professionals provided valuable real-world experience and insights, allowing for attendees to also practice interviewing skills with employers that can boost confidence and gain tips to improve for future interview opportunities.

By attending the DSS/HRA Brooklyn Career Fair at NYCT, attendees gained practical experience, got insight into professional interviews, and had opportunities to create valuable connections that can be beneficial into their career paths. The most important takeaway from the career fair is the power of networking. Building strong relationships with professionals in the field can open doors to new opportunities and accelerate career advancement. The importance of having correct and meaningful resumes and cover letters were also emphasized as the gateway to receiving interview opportunities. Attending similar events or other career fairs is a great way to meet many employers and find potential leads or networking opportunities. Actively engaging with employers, recruiters as well as other attendees can foster good networking relationships. By investing time and effort in networking and attending career fairs, individuals can significantly enhance their job search efforts and increase their chances of securing a fulfilling career while also developing themselves and boosting confidence for future interviews and opportunities

