



The Network

Spring 2009-2010

Summer!!!!

It is hard to believe that another school year has flown by so quickly. This has been a difficult year for South Carolina schools and many other agencies, particularly with budget constraints. Nevertheless, we have done pretty well considering the circumstances.

We can not say often enough how much we appreciate your strong support for your SCOIS Career Information System. To all of you who wrote or called your legislators to ask for support for SCOIS, we greatly appreciate it! It is imperative that we keep our friends in the legislature informed as to the many advantages that our state-based Career Information System has for our students and educators. There are a fair number of newly elected members each election cycle and they will not know about our system if we don't inform them. So thanks again for your help with this initiative... Thanks to you, SCOIS will continue to be able to assist you with your career development programs.

On another positive note, SCOIS has reached yet another milestone we have not seen before. We are pleased to report that as of April 1, 2010, our user base has grown to 1003 sites across South Carolina. The biggest jump in new users has been with new elementary schools that are continuing to come on board. Counselors and teachers from elementary sites have done a great job spreading the word about the SCOIS online elementary systems. SCOIS can be used for career awareness and career exploration in elementary schools at no cost to the local schools or districts.

The usage of the SCOIS Career Systems during this past school year has increased to new record levels. There are several reasons for the increased usage. More students are taking the SCOIS career assessments and they are logging into SCOIS from their homes. It is certainly

encouraging to know that students are looking at their future career options more seriously than in the past.

Also, SCOIS field reps worked extremely hard during the fall semester to train more counselors, media specialists and teachers on the new SCOIS CIS system. During the current school year, SCOIS staff trained 1363 educators in 92 SCOIS training sessions. We have also participated in all of the appropriate state conferences and provided additional workshops at these meetings. We will continue to focus our efforts with training again next school year.

It has been a privilege for SCOIS over the past 32 years to partner with such a vast array of institutions; schools, voc rehabs, universities and technical colleges, workforce centers, public libraries, and other sites. We enjoy assisting all of you with your career development needs and we hope you will continue to call us when we can be of service to you and your respective institutions.

Please remind your students, users and colleagues that the SCOIS Career System can be accessed 12 months a year and to feel free to utilize the system during the summer months. We hope you have a great summer and please call us at the SCOIS office in Columbia if there is anything we can do to assist you.



Toney Farr, Director

Getting ready to graduate...

don't know what to do?

The Changing Economy

Whether you are graduating from high school or college, it is a scary time to be jumping into the job market. Although the nation is showing early signs of recovery from the worst recession since the great depression, there have been some significant changes in the structure of our economy that could impact your career plans.

More people are working part-time.

This is a by-product of the high unemployment we have experienced as a nation over the past two years. People are taking whatever jobs they can get to make ends meet. Many are working multiple part-time jobs. Most part-time jobs don't provide benefits. Jobs of this type typically experience high turnover.

As a recent graduate, this type of employment provides valuable experience. It shows potential employers that you have a strong work ethic and a willingness to do whatever it takes to earn a living. It provides flexibility, a source of income, and an opportunity to put your education to use in ways you never imagined.

More employers are going to temporary workers to meet work demands rather than committing to permanent employees.

Caution is the word as companies begin to recover from the economic downturn. A significant increase in the use of temporary employment services is taking place across the country. This helps companies reduce costs and provides flexibility in adjusting their employment levels to match workload without having to layoff or add permanent employees.

Working through temporary employment agencies can provide you an opportunity to try out jobs and to impress potential employers. It also can provide you with a variety of valuable experiences. Many of the temp agencies also offer benefit packages.

More employers are maintaining productivity with fewer employees.

Companies are now working smarter rather than harder. Despite significant reductions in their workforce, many industries are seeing increases in productivity. The recession offered many companies an opportunity to "clean house" and to rethink their work process, incorporate new technology, and explore other cost savings measures.

Opportunity exists if you are technologically savvy and have the ability to multi-task. The ability to demonstrate these skills through your formalized education and a variety of part-time job experiences may be the key to gaining employment opportunities with established companies who are re-engineering their work processes.

More highly educated/trained workers are taking jobs below their skill levels.

It is an employer's market out there right now and will be for years to come as we continue to recover from the recession. Employers will look for the best possible candidate to fill vacancies. Many might argue that employers are hiring folks who are "over qualified" for jobs and that these folks will leave as soon as something better comes along. Many HR Directors will tell you, "I'd rather have an A+ worker for a year than a B- for the next five."

From an applicant's perspective you want the job. You should not avoid taking jobs that have minimum requirements far below your education and/or experience level. If you are that good, you will move up quickly. If you don't move up quickly, look for other opportunities. The key is to have a job. Any job looks better on your resume than periods of unemployment. It is also easier to find a job when you have one.





If you are graduating from college, one avenue you might pursue is an internship. Many companies are using internships to screen or “try out” recruits with the intent of hanging on to the cream of the crop. These normally pay below market value and there is no guarantee that you will be hired at the end of the program. The plus side is it provides valuable experience that will help you down the road and you might be one of the folks who end up getting an offer.

More manufacturers are moving labor-intensive jobs off shore.

Low-skill/labor-intensive manufacturing jobs are becoming obsolete in this country. The costs of labor and regulatory concerns make it more profitable for many manufacturers to operate in foreign countries. Most of the jobs lost to off shoring will never return to this country.

If you are a graduating from high school and are considering following in the footsteps of a parent, relative or friend who worked in a textile mill or other labor-intensive manufacturing environment, you need to rethink your plans. If manufacturing is your chosen career cluster, go to a technical college and skill up. Most of the technical colleges have industrial technology departments and offer a variety of certificates, diplomas, and associate degree programs. High tech/high wage jobs in manufacturing are the wave of the future.

There are more longer-term unemployed.

Record levels of Americans have been out of work for a year or longer as a result of the recession. Many of these are coming face to face with the reality that the jobs they lost will not be coming back. Retraining is an option that many are choosing to take.

If you decide to continue your education and build skills, take advantage of the opportunity to learn from your classmates. As a recent high school graduate, you may find yourself sitting in a classroom next to someone with 20 years of experience in a manufacturing plant or someone who managed a fast food restaurant. The knowledge and experience these folks bring to the classroom are extremely valuable as are your fresh ideas and enthusiasm. Never sell experience short. It is just a different kind of knowledge.

The skills-gap issue will be intensified as a result of this recession.

Structural unemployment is on the rise. The growing gap between those that have the skills needed to compete in the job market and those that don't is growing larger. The outlook for many of those impacted is not promising. Education/re-training is the key.

This recession has made the case for lifelong learning. As you witness what is happening in your state and community, you should be learning a valuable lesson. Never stop learning. Never give up a chance to increase your knowledge. Knowledge equals productivity which determines value.

Closing Thoughts

Despite the challenges that lie ahead, you can still live the American Dream. You can still be whatever you want to be. Remember that success is measured not only by what you achieve, but also by the number and size of the obstacles you have to overcome in the process. With the right attitude and perseverance you can accomplish almost anything. In the interim, “skill up” and prepare for the future.

*by: Bob Brown, MSM, SPHR
Director, Labor Market Information*

Highest SCOIS Usage Sites

It's that time of year when we like to recognize the top 5 middle schools and high schools with the most usage. Congratulations to *North Myrtle Beach Middle* and *Spring Valley High* for being at the top of the list.

Top 5 Middle School Sites

North Myrtle Beach Middle (9763)
Boiling Springs Intermediate (5133)
CrossRoads Middle School (4887)
McCants Middle (4867)
Hartsville Middle School (4865)

Top 5 High School Sites

Spring Valley High (5653)
Dorman High (4751)
South Florence High (2812)
Cane Bay High (2655)
Stratford High (2627)

This year we would also like to recognize the top 5 elementary schools, colleges/universities and other adult population sites.

Top 5 Elementary School Sites

Hampton Elementary
Cherokee Trail Elementary
Homewood Elementary
O.P. Earle Elementary
Hickory Grove-Sharon Elementary

Top 5 College Sites

York Tech
Trident Tech-Main Campus
Piedmont Tech
USC Career Center
Trident Tech-Berkeley

Top 5 Other Sites

Department of Employment and Workforce
SC Vocational Rehabilitation
Trident One Stop Career Center
Marion County Adult Education
Sumter Lee Adult Education



Let SCOIS CIS help you...



Our new SCOIS CIS JR and CIS HS versions have many features that are appropriate for working with career needs of special populations. The information and resources available to teachers, students, and parents can help in developing long range career plans and maximizing educational opportunities. The questions in the Career Cluster Assessment are short and straightforward as are the four answer choices. Once students create their individual portfolios, they can save their assessments at any time, which means they can take the assessments in segments, save, and resume at another time. You can choose the time frame that is most appropriate for each individual.

Occupational searches can be conducted from both the JR and HS CIS. You will find that the occupational profiles on JR CIS are more concise and at a lower reading level than those on CIS HS. Occupational profiles include information on working conditions, physical demands, skills and abilities, knowledge, and preparation, as well as other criteria. Many of the profiles contain videos of the occupation.

Another occupational search resource, located in CIS HS is the "Occupational Match." Students can search for occupations based on such factors as education and training and physical activity. Each factor or combination of factors will generate a list of compatible occupations, and with a click of the mouse, students and teachers can view the occupational profile.

CIS JR takes a developmental approach to career development. The three areas, "Who Am I?," "Where Am I Going?," "How Am I Going to Get There?" contain many activities, helping students become more aware of themselves, their interests, their experiences and how these

are related to career choices. Recognizing that success in school and the workplace is directly related to one's social skills and work ethic, CIS JR has also developed a series of activities under "How Am I Going to Get There," addressing employability skills. There are activities on communication skills, personal dependability, as well as on success in school and the workplace and their relationship to each other. These activities are in PDF and Word files, the latter allowing you to adapt them for your personal needs.

In addition to all of the student resources, there are over 600 learning activities related to specific curriculum areas that teachers and counselors can use in the classroom. Most activities include a description of the activity, a work sheet if appropriate, the curriculum standards and SCAN Skills addressed, as well as suggestions for inclusion practices.

Working with students with special needs is a collaborative process, involving all teachers, counselors and parents. SCOIS CIS is easy to use and is accessible to all. Whereas students may have individual usernames and passwords so they can save their information, parents and educators can use CIS by entering the school's generic username and password. We, at SCOIS, are always willing to help you better meet the career needs of your students. If you have questions, you can call our office or your area representative. If your school or your district is interested in training for your special education teachers, we would be happy to schedule a time convenient for you.

by: Carole Dunlap, SCOIS
Customer Service Rep.

Want to create a shortcut to your SC CIS on your desktop?



Go to <http://sccis.intocareers.org/>. This will bring up the SCOIS CIS portal page.

Drag and drop the above address and icon to your desktop

Once you have dragged and dropped the address and icon from the address line from your browser to your desktop.....you will then change the properties on the desktop shortcut.

Right click on the shortcut, click on Properties and use the following string in the URL field.

<http://sccis.intocareers.org/loginmain.aspx?Username=username&Password=password>

Please type in your site specific username where the word username is in red (**username**)

Please type in your site specific password where the word password is in red (**password**)

Remember that the username and password ARE case sensitive.



Mark Your Calendar...

June 2010

2010 SCASA Summer Leadership Institute
June 20 through June 22, 2010
Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, SC
For More Information Visit: www.scasa.org

2010 Education and Business Summit
June 27th through July 1st, 2010
Carolina First, Greenville, SC
For More Information Visit: www.ebsummit.info

What kind of engineer did you say you were?

Bioengineers apply engineering methods to solve problems in biology and medicine. They develop devices and procedures that address medical and health-related issues.

One of the greatest advancements in bioengineering was the invention of the heart-lung machine. This machine takes over the functions of the heart and lungs during surgery. Before its introduction in the 1950s, heart surgery wasn't possible. There was no way to keep a patient alive while working on the heart. Today, about 750,000 open-heart procedures are performed each year thanks to the heart-lung machine!

Bioengineers conduct research in many industries. In genetics, bioengineers try to detect, prevent, and treat genetic diseases. Sports medicine bioengineers develop devices for athletes who are recovering from injuries. In industry, bioengineers conduct research and create designs to improve products and technologies. Bioengineers often work in product testing and safety to establish safety standards for medical devices.

Many bioengineers solve problems in medicine and healthcare. Digital hearing aids, artificial heart valves, and pacemakers are all bioengineering products. They also design artificial joints, tissues and organs. Some develop surgical devices, such as a laser for eye surgery. Others create diagnostic tools such as MRI and CT scanners. The first priority for these bioengineers is safety. The equipment they design must not only work, but be safe for patients (especially if it is something surgically inserted into a body). Much of their work is spent testing equipment

to see what might go wrong and how to prevent problems.

Bioengineers use computers for a majority of their work. They use computers to model organs and internal systems. This allows them to see how the body would function with, or react to, a biomedical device. They use computers to perform research on new materials, devices, and procedures. Some bioengineers create computer simulations that allow doctors and medical students to practice specific surgeries without operating on a patient. Others use computers to create robots that assist surgeons.

Bioengineering is not limited to the medical field. Some bioengineers design computer systems to monitor healthy persons in unusual environments. For example, some systems monitor astronauts in space. Other systems monitor underwater divers at great depths.

An important part of this job is to work with other scientists, doctors, and engineers. Bioengineers often work as part of a team in order to design and test their ideas. Communication abilities are important because bioengineers often interact with specialists in a wide range of fields outside engineering.





The South Carolina Occupational Information System

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The Network newsletter is published during the year by the South Carolina Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (SCOICC) to encourage communication between the South Carolina Occupational Information System (SCOIS) and its users. Your comments and questions are welcome.

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