

August 22, 2005 UCSD Extension Career Forum to Help San Diegans Connect With Areas of Greatest Potential Job Growth Jackie Carr

Free Sept. 7 event to feature industry experts, advice on specific skills needed to advance or change careers

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UCSD Extension, as part of its ongoing mission to support growth of the ever-changing regional economy, will host a career forum on campus Sept. 7 to offer expert counsel and the latest information on skills needed to advance careers in business, science, and technology.

The free public forum will be from 6 to 9 p.m. on the UCSD Extension campus, 9600 N. Torrey Pines Road. Organizers anticipate several hundred will participate in the forum, which will focus on areas identified by the San Diego Workforce Partnership as having the greatest potential for growth: manufacturing, biotechnology and pharmaceutical, and software and computer service industries.

More than 20 meeting rooms have been set aside for covering important topics within each industry or segment. Industry experts and Extension faculty members will help both employers and employees navigate topics ranging from regulatory affairs and drug discovery, to fundraising, marketing, data mining, and systems engineering.

Guest speakers include Dr. Steven Null, Six Sigma Champion and Master Black Belt for Northrup Grumman Corporation, Michele Leroux Bustamante of Microsoft, Thomas Powell of Pint Inc., Alan Nevin of MarketPointe Realty Advisors, Phyllis Huckabee, Vice President of Human Resources at Quidel, and Jane Marshall of Business Process Solutions International. Question and answer sessions will follow. The job forum will also feature representatives from the Project Management Institute, the California Society of Certified Public Accountants, and the Society for Human Resource Management, and will also be available to answer questions about career and workplace trends. Career counselors will be available to offer advice on job searches, resume writing, and salary negotiation.

"The regional economy is constantly evolving and we hope this will be the first in a series of forums to help San Diegans connect with future jobs," says Vicki Krantz, managing director at UCSD Extension. "We've gathered together an array of experts so that, in a single evening, participants can gain real insights into San Diego's job market and discover what specific skills and education employers are seeking."

Krantz points out that today's typical employee will probably change careers more than five times. In a study by the U.S. Department of Labor, the average person born in the baby boom held approximately 10 jobs during their earning years. If this trend continues, those who are just beginning their careers would be wise to prepare for at least a dozen or more changes.

"This job market requires a dedication to embracing, and managing for, constant change, whether you are an employee, employer or supporting organization. We are looking forward to feedback on this program so we can keep the evolution moving in the right direction," said Krantz.

Each year, more than 40,000 professionals and their employers take advantage of Extension's programs, both physical and virtual. A growing number of learners represent life-science based companies who want to integrate their organizational needs with employee training. Essy Levy, instructor and program manager at Extension, has seen a steady rise in enrollments in the fields of clinical trials and biomedical product development.

"More and more, we are seeing a desire for coursework to revolve around new projects in the workplace," says Levy.

It's a matter of sustaining a competitive advantage, describes Del Foit, newly appointed Life Sciences director and former COO of Sequenom Inc. "Companies are continually evaluating the core competencies and infrastructure necessary to grow to the next stage. One option, of course, is to outsource some of the work but we live in a very entrepreneurial community and most local companies are trying to create wealth for their investors and high-paying jobs that will sustain and strengthen the San Diego economy," says Foit.

Members of the military are invited to learn information on applying for GI Bill benefits. Further details, including financial aid options, are available at UCSD Extension Complex, 9600 N. Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, CA.

To register, go to extension.ucsd.edu/wdoh or call (858) 882-8000.

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