

Career Fair broadens horizons for ECSU students

By Monique Boyce
Assistant Editor

On Sept. 24 Elizabeth City State University brought the world of work to the ECSU campus when the Office of Career Services held its annual Career Fair.

The two day event brought representatives from local, state, and regional companies face to face with ECSU students from all of the academic disciplines.

Mr. Brutus Jackson, ECSU's Director of Career Services, says he was pleased with this year's event which, he says, showed a marked improvement over previous years, especially in terms of student attendance.

Jackson said that during the time they were on campus, the more than 70 representatives visited more than 130 classes, giving students tips about how to be successful in today's global job market.

"The recruiters were very positive about the students and the Career Fair," Jackson said. "I was pleased with this year's event. The faculty and administration was very supportive and helped to inform the students of its importance."

Jackson said that 810 students attended the fair this year compared to 630 last year, a 15 percent increase.

Mrs. Sandra Gibson, assistant to the Director of Career Services, said there was a marked improvement in the campus-wide reception among students,



photo by Mike Lampart

Students line up at the booths at Career Day.

faculty and the administration.

"There was a very positive student reaction and general interest in career services, the fair, internships and co-op opportunities," she said.

The fair was also larger and more expansive than last year's, Gibson said. She cited the increase in the number of representatives who came to campus.

"This year's fair was a definite improvement from the previous year's," she said. "There were more than 71 representatives from different companies, government agencies, school systems and graduate schools."

"The most obvious measure of the

fair's success was the 15 percent increase," she added.

Director Jackson said that two major recruiters, the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Western Geophysical, which employed two ECSU interns last summer, have agreed to hire additional students during the summer of 1999.

Mr. Jackson said he was satisfied with the overall presentation students made, but he reemphasized that dress and demeanor and professionalism are the key ingredients students need to keep in mind when interviewing and which will help guarantee success during the interview process. These include "dressing for success", preparing a quality re-

sume, and practicing interview techniques to perfection.

"Of course there are other variables but these are the basics," Jackson says.

In addition to holding the annual fair, the Office of Career Services offers students assistance in securing internship placements, co-op opportunities, interviewing techniques, resume writing and cover letter preparation. Students can also use the office to look up information about graduate and professional school study.

The Career Services Office is located in room 103 of the H.L. Trigg Building and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It was formerly known as the Office of Career Planning and Placement.

Duke Physician assistant recruiter visits campus

Mr. Lovest Alexander, director of the Duke University Physician Assistant Recruitment Program, told a small but enthusiastic group of ECSU students that virtually all of the courses they are taking at Elizabeth City State University will in some way help their chances of either entering the medical profession or gaining entry to medical school.

Mr. Alexander's visit on Oct. 1 was part of the North Carolina Health Careers Access Program at ECSU which brings noted professionals from the health care professions to the campus throughout the year.

Mr. Alexander's visit was coordinated by Ms. Izila F. Mouring, ECSU's Director of Health Careers.

During his 45-minute talk, which was punctuated by questions from the audience, Mr. Alexander, who has been a physician assistant for more than 20

years and who specializes in internal medicine, outlined the coursework and kinds of practical experiences that Duke is looking for in its applicants.

"You have to have a four year degree, because getting into a P.A. program is just like getting into medical school," he said. "Hands-on experience gives you more credit. Our (physician assistant) training and Duke's medical school training are similar."

Physician assistant training involves learning the principles of anatomy, physiology, microbiology, pharmacotherapeutics, health maintenance, primary care and internal medicine. It also includes obstetrics, gynecology and psychiatry.

Mr. Alexander said that physician assistant salaries range from \$51,000 to \$100,000.

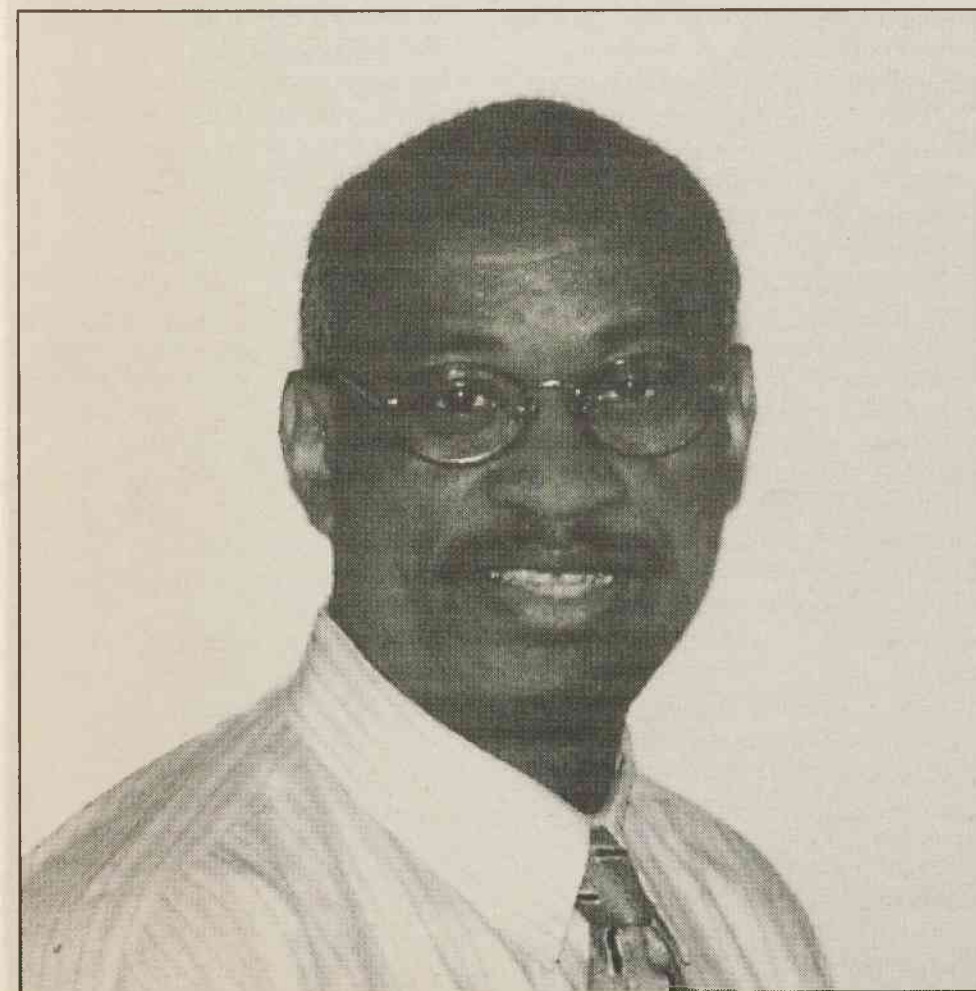


photo courtesy of Duke University

Lovest Alexander, Duke University Physician Assistant Recruiter .