Interviewing: Preparation equals success

☐ **Career Center prepares upcoming graduates for the interviewing process.**

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Last week the Meredith Learning Center sponsored events, including an Interview Workshop held Mon., Feb. 25 in the Career Center and Mock Interview Week, held Feb. 25-28, to help increase the preparedness and confidence of students anticipating upcoming interviews.

According to Angie McNeill, assistant director for Employer Relations, the goal of the Interview Workshop and Mock Interview Week was to "help prepare students for the interview process." McNeill added, "The best preparation is practice."

The Interview Workshop provided a chance for students to understand the basics of interviewing, such as how to effectively prepare, what to expect during the interview and how to follow up after the interview.

She added that the Interview Workshop also provided a time for students to ask questions about the interview process.

McNeill explained that mock interview participants dropped off their resumes in advance, and Career Center staff asked "targeted questions related to the students' career goals" during the mock interview.

McNeill and Dana Sumner, assistant director for Career Development, interviewed participants for 15-20 minutes

and then, with the student, viewed and critiqued the student's videotaped interview, during which time the students could ask questions.

Senior Beth Feezor, an English major graduating in May, explained that the interview was "nice because it was formal with questions you might expect but informal because the interviewer was a friendly face."

While McNeill agreed that watching the video can be a little awkward at first, she explained that "people feel it is a valuable experience because they have an idea of what to work on," and she added that sometimes they realize they interview better than they imagined.

Approximately five students attended the Interview Workshop and six participated in mock interviews, according to McNeill.

While Career Center staff had hoped for a higher number of participants, McNeill

said that several students had explained that they wanted to participate but had conflicts such as studying for various midterms.

According to McNeill, there is good news for these and other interested students because the Career Center offers the Mock Interview service throughout the year. Students simply contact the Career Center to schedule an appointment.

Seezor and fellow participant Adrian Smith, a senior majoring in business administration with a concentration in marketing, agree that participating in a mock interview is beneficial.

Interview preparation can give a candidate an edge, according to Smith.

"You want to go in with the right answers and be prepared and confident, and the only way to do that is through practice," she said.

For more information or to schedule a Mock Interview, contact the Career Center at 760-8341.