SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST: U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (coming in Spring!)

Did you know that even though there are approximately 6100 commissioned corps officers globally, the US Public Health Service aims to expand that number to 10000 within a few years?

A Commissioned Corps Officer is a non-combat officer who works directly under the U.S. Surgeon General. And the Public Health Service does not assign recruits to a particular post, rather, individuals choose where they want to be placed.

Several opportunities for students exist such as Junior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (JRCOSTEP), Senior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (SRCOSTEP), and the Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (COSTEP).

Visit www.usphs.gov to find out more about this exciting career path!

CAREER PLANNING: The March Toward Job Placement!

Job Search Checklist

Know what you want.
Before you can effectively market yourself to potential employers, you must know what you want and what would make you attractive to an employer. Take time to assess yourself in terms of interests, skills, abilities, values, goals and various personal qualities.

Craft an impressive résumé.
It is impossible to overemphasize the importance of your résumé in the job search. In order to make that first cut, your résumé must stand out in form and content. What about it makes you look responsible? Qualified? Professional?

Do your homework.
You need to research employers, job titles and specifications to discover positions of interest. Tapping into the Internet is extremely effective for learning about job openings, researching potential career areas and employers, and networking.

Write memorable cover letters.
A well-written cover letter establishes a match between you and the employer, in effect telling the employer why you fit the position best. Your cover letter should explain how your qualifications strengthen your candidacy, and how the organization might fulfill your goals. This is also a great opportunity to showcase your written communications skills.

Practice for your Interviews.
Don't panic! Usually an interview consists of questions about yourself, and the information you have given on your résumé. Brief answers with specific examples foster a good conversational exchange. If you have gone through all the steps above, you have already thought about these things and know the answers!

Participate in on-campus interviews and career fairs.
Students can make contacts with employers during the year through the on-campus sponsored career fairs and employer information sessions.

Network, network, network.
Networking is an important career search tool used to uncover "the hidden job market." Use personal contacts or alumni, students, and professors in your job search. Talk to everyone!

Alumni Profile: Derrick Demmons

Derrick Demmons is a 2005 Tulane MPH graduate in Epidemiology. While a graduate student at Tulane, Derrick served as the Corrections Project Assistant for the Louisiana Office of Public Health HIV/AIDS Program and was responsible for forming collaborations with the Department of Safety and Justice to conduct epidemiological studies to reduce the spread of communicable diseases inside correctional facilities. Working with local, state and territorial public health officials gave him the opportunity to (1) develop protocols and guidelines and (2) educate inmates about protecting themselves once released. In this position, he was able to use strategic methods to research and develop innovative interventions to assure a comprehensive prevention release program that was relevant to specific regions and communities of Louisiana for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

After leaving Tulane, Derrick became the Manager of Research Projects for the Center of Transfusion and Cellular Therapies at the Emory University Hospital. During his tenure, he had the privilege to work with seasoned investigators to offer technical assistance, perform statistical analysis, assist in grant writing, monitor blood donation trends, and serve as co-investigator on numerous community based projects.

Currently, Derrick is the Assistant Manager of Management Consultant and Technical Assistance for SciMetrika, LLC. SciMetrika is a US Small Business Administration (SBA) certified 8(a) Minority-owned and Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) located in the heart of North Carolina’s renowned Research...
## UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resume Writing Workshop</td>
<td>Monday, January 25, 2010</td>
<td>12:00-1:00 pm</td>
<td>Room 1210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interviewing Skills Workshop</td>
<td>Monday, February 1, 2010</td>
<td>12:00-1:00 pm</td>
<td>Room 1210</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mardi Gras Invitational Career and Interview Fair</td>
<td>February 3 and 4, 2010</td>
<td></td>
<td>Louisiana Superdome - Bienville Club Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Search Strategies Workshop</td>
<td>Monday, February 8, 2010</td>
<td>12:00-1:00 pm</td>
<td>Room 1210</td>
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Triangle Park. SciMetrika is focused solely on advancing human health through the provision of scientific, technical, and logistical solutions that assist customers accomplish their vision, mission and goals. In this role he provides public health research, scientific and technical assistance, program evaluation and development, and management consulting to government clients.

We found Derrick representing his company at the APHA Conference Exhibit Hall in Philadelphia. He related that job opportunities for his company are available at all levels and can be found advertised at [www.scimetrika.com](http://www.scimetrika.com).

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**WE LOVE TO KNOW WHERE OUR ALUMNI ARE IN THE WORLD!  *Now - Join LinkedIn too!***

The Tulane University Online Community is an online alumni career networking tool that allows students to connect with SPHTM alumni who are willing to give first-hand information about careers, employers, and the cities/countries in which they work. Current students and alumni who would like to utilize the network should register at: [www.tulanecommunity.com](http://www.tulanecommunity.com).

Note that your email will not be displayed publicly but may be utilized by searchers "blindly". Alumni who join may also use the database to connect and network throughout their careers.