Welcome & Introduction

The Professional Development Academy is a nine-week intensive program designed to help students develop knowledge and skills for career readiness and success.

Program Description:

The Professional Development Academy is a nine-week intensive program designed to help students develop knowledge and skills for career readiness and success. The program will offer participants the opportunity to explore critical professional competencies identified by employers. The Academy will explore professional proficiencies expected in the workplace. Proficiency areas will include Communication, Thinking & Reasoning, and Workplace Professionalism.

Learning Objectives:

- Orient participants to professional proficiencies identified by employers
- Identify and develop critical personal and professional proficiencies for the work force
- Begin to identify and develop communication proficiencies including written, verbal, & digital
- Explore thinking and reasoning proficiencies in the workplace
- Examine individual management tools for personal and professional success
- Exposure to industry professionals
Proficiency Areas:
Workplace Professionalism Proficiency
Communication Proficiency
Thinking & Reasoning Proficiency

PROGRAM CURRICULUM

COMMUNICATION PROFICIENCY

Communication proficiency for the workplace explores the verbal and written ability to share thoughts and ideas in an effective manner. Communication proficiency explores both written and verbal capacities. Additionally, this area explores the digital realm of electronic communications.

Communication Proficiency includes:

- Writing Skills
- Verbal Skills
- Digital Etiquette Skills

THINKING & REASONING PROFICIENCY

Thinking and reasoning proficiency is the ability to analyze, synthesize, and apply gathered information to solve problems and make decisions. This proficiency is developed both in and outside of the classroom. Additionally, the ability to apply ethical decision making is critical in the workplace.

Thinking & Reasoning Proficiency includes:

- Decision Making & Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Ethical Reasoning

WORKPLACE PROFESSIONALISM PROFICIENCY

Professionalism proficiency prepares students with the basics needed to enter a global workforce. The workplace professional proficiency reviews entry level business knowledge, personal brand, and culture in the workplace. This proficiency also empowers individuals to see, shape and benefit from their professional identities.

Workplace Professionalism Proficiency includes:

- Professional Basics (work ethic, budgeting, etc.)
- Personal Brand (workplace presence & beyond)
- Culture & the Workplace

Attendance Policy:

All academy students must attend all sessions. Unexcused absences could result in removal from the program. Required attire for all Academy sessions is business casual. No jeans, sneakers, flip flops, etc. allowed.

Culminating Portfolio & Academy Assignments
Academy Portfolio (portfolio guide will be passed out separately)

Academy participants are required to complete a culminating portfolio highlighting development
throughout the duration of the program. The portfolio may be used during the Academy Showcase for all successful Academy completers. Culminating portfolios should identify the following:

- Initial program learning goals
- Lessons learned
- Plan for additional development assignments

Take home assignments will be assigned on a weekly basis. These assignments are opportunities to continue to explore each proficiency area and include the following:

- 2 career assessments (StrengthsQuest & MBTI)
- Learning Contract
- 1 informational interview and reflection
- Reflections following each proficiency area
- LinkedIn profile/resume review
- Budget planning exercise
- Networking exercise

Ready Day 1

Per the requirements of this course, you will be asked to participate in Ready Day 1, an online, video simulation training program aimed at developing your career readiness skills such as teamwork, critical thinking, communication, leadership, professionalism, and inclusiveness.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Session Topics</th>
<th>Assignments (Due Next Week)</th>
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<td>August 28th</td>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>Get to know each other Expectations&lt;br&gt;Syllabus review&lt;br&gt;Welcomes from Associate Dean &amp; Executive Director, Toppel Career Center and Dean, College of Engineering</td>
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<td>September 4th</td>
<td>Self-Exploration</td>
<td>StrengthsQuest &amp; MBTI&lt;br&gt;Introduce Ready Day 1 Activity</td>
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<td>September 11th</td>
<td>Workplace Professionalism</td>
<td>Branding&lt;br&gt;Workplace Cultures&lt;br&gt;What Employers Want Panel (Guest Speakers)</td>
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<td>September 18th</td>
<td>Workplace Professionalism</td>
<td>Budgeting&lt;br&gt;Salary Negotiation</td>
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<td>September 25th</td>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Written Communication (resumes/cover letters)&lt;br&gt;Digital Communication (email/LinkedIn)</td>
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<td>October 2nd</td>
<td>NO SESSION DUE TO CAREER EXPO</td>
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<td>October 9th</td>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Verbal Communication&lt;br&gt;Nonverbal Communication</td>
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<td>October 16th</td>
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<td>October 23rd</td>
<td>Thinking &amp; Reasoning</td>
<td>Decision Making&lt;br&gt;Values&lt;br&gt;Diversity in STEM (Guest Speaker)</td>
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<td>October 30th</td>
<td>Thinking &amp; Reasoning</td>
<td>Critical Thinking&lt;br&gt;Ethical Decision Making&lt;br&gt;Ethics in STEM Case Study (Guest Speaker)&lt;br&gt;Showcase Prep</td>
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<td>November 6th</td>
<td>SHOWCASE</td>
<td>Professional Development Academy&lt;br&gt;Showcase &amp; Reception&lt;br&gt;Business Professional Attire Required</td>
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