Career choice hinges on goals, adviser says

By Jennifer Weber
Times-Advocate Staff Writer

SAN MARCOS — If job hunting is a jungle, John Disce is a guide. Disce is the director of Palomar College’s career center. The center is a large, open room with college catalogs crammed on shelves along one side and racks of career information on the other.

Because Palomar is a community college, the center is open not just to students but also to people outside the college who are considering a career change or a return to the job market.

Disce — whose office is cluttered with books, papers and reference guides — does not try to force people to take classes at Palomar or other colleges, he said. He does advise them about what they need to do to pursue their goals.

Elizabeth Dobbs, 37, returned to college because she decided she couldn’t get the kind of job she wanted without a degree. Dobbs thought she’d like to do sales work, but wanted to be sure.

She found that sales was one alternative for her teaching was another. She’s now majoring in English, and would like to teach at a community college.

“It encouraged me to pursue something that normally would be out of my range,” the Vista resident said. “It enables you to open up your horizons as far as job opportunities are concerned.” Disce said his program confirms ideas people already have or steers them in entirely new directions.

A licensed, marriage and family counselor, Disce said there are three reasons people perform poorly at school or on the job: They have poor study habits, are distracted by personal problems or have no goal.

Giving them a goal boosts their self-esteem, and they do better in school or on the job.

“I think (having a goal) is one of the quickest forms of therapy I’ve ever seen in my life,” he said.

Disce, who runs both a full-semester class and a three-part seminar on job searching, said the most important consideration in hunting for a career is thinking about hobbies.

He gives people who come to him for help a survey, asking them to write about their most enjoyable class or subject, their dream career, their definitions of success, their strengths and weaknesses, and likes and dislikes.

Disce’s next career seminar starts in February. His in-depth career and life-planning course begins next month. For information, call 744-1150, Ext. 2189.

Palomar offers courses for ’89

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Palomar College is getting ready for the New Year with a full menu of courses at the San Marcos campus and other North County sites. Among the classes are:

- Electronics technology, beginning Jan. 23. Thirty-five spaces are still open; in this accelerated class, students in the program can get a certificate in basic electronics technology in two semesters. The course costs $15 per semester. For information, call 744-8110 or 727-0635.
- History of modern art 1: 19th century Europe and America, starting Jan. 26 in Ramona. The class will cover art from 1700 to 1900, including modern art, romanticism, realism and impressionism. Tuition is $15. The class will be at Ramona High School, 1401 Hanson Lane. For information, call 744-1150, extension 2302.
- Supervision, beginning Jan. 23. Two classes will be offered at Fallbrook High School, 2400 S. Stagecoach Road. Human relations for supervisors will be Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Introduction to supervision will meet Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Each class is worth three units of college credit. For information, call 744-1150 or 727-7628, ext. 2153.

A four-week art class in Morelia, Mexico. The workshop in figure drawing is limited to 25 students. Besides working on art, students can study conversational Spanish, dance, guitar and Mexican cuisine. The cost is $1,095, which includes air fare, room and board, art instruction and models.

Old Christmas trees left curbside will be recycled

Teaching