Palomar job fair attracts a crowd

Event features booths from 79 companies and organizations.

JESSICA MUSICAR
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SAN MARCOS — With resumes in hand, students at Palomar College, as well as individuals from surrounding communities, searched for part-time work and possible careers at the college's Community Job Fair on Wednesday.

Centered around the clock tower at Palomar's main campus, the job fair featured booths from 79 companies and organizations, including Legoland California, Mary Kay Cosmetics, San Diego County Probation Department and KCEO/KFSD Radio.

While some individuals walked among the booths simply to see what careers were available to them — picking up candy and pens along the way — other job seekers participated in impromptu interviews and filled out applications on the spot.

After stepping away from a booth, Wayne Crawford of Temecula said he is looking for a job to fill his time now that he has retired from the Marine Corps.

"I'm looking for new views and new ideas — I'm trying to reinvent myself," Crawford said, adding that a job fair is a great way to be exposed to a bunch of businesses at one time. "Why go 100 when you can find everything condensed in one area?"

Career Services Director John Disc, whose department put on the event, said the job fair ties in with the Career Center's mission to help students discover a career that fits their personalities and desires. It also gives students employment opportunities that may help them stay in school.

"We are trying to enable students to continue their studies." Disc said, noting that flexible, part-time jobs lead to better student retention because students have the time and money necessary to complete their schooling.

Disc added that the fair was also intended for community members looking for alternatives or new careers.

Event also intended for those seeking alternatives or new careers.

Standing next to a display for the Social and Behavioral Research Institute, Jennifer Holmes, a survey lab supervisor, said she met with job seekers throughout the day in hopes of attracting new employees to the institute. She said she gave out several applications and hopes to see some new faces at SBRI's offices at Cal State San Marcos in the future.

"This is a great part-time job for college students, so what better avenue to explore than the local community colleges?" Holmes said.

Joe Carini, a personal chef from Oceanside, said he came to the job fair after learning about the event from a friend.

Dressed for success in a blue button-up shirt, tie and slacks, Carini said the job fair is a more relaxed setting for such job seekers as himself to find new employment opportunities.

"I already have four possibilities, and I've only been here for half an hour — that's a plus," Carini said.

Contact freelance writer Jessica Musicar at Gwyllion@aol.com.