

Fountainhead College of Technology Celebrates Perfect Job Placement Rate

Fountainhead College of Technology, a local college specializing in associate's and bachelor's degrees with curricula focusing on technology, has a perfect job placement rate.

The recently released Tennessee Higher Education Commission's Student Enrollment, Graduation and Placement Report 2007-2008 gives Fountainhead a job placement rate of 100 – a perfect score. Essentially, this means the graduating students deemed placeable by the school found or were placed in jobs this past year. Nearly 90 percent of these students found jobs related to their major.

The job placement rate is especially good news for students in the face of a December jump in Tennessee's unemployment rate, from 7 percent to 7.9 percent.

December graduate Casey Cooper said he had a job by January.

"I got a job as operation analyst with Covenant Health after I got my associate's degree," Cooper said. "The president of Fountainhead was really helpful. They have a personal touch because they are a smaller school."

"It's not an easy thing to have good job placement rates," said Fountainhead president Richard Rackley. "We develop programs we know will have excellent placement opportunities. Our goal for our students is getting a job."

Rackley said the smaller class size of the school allows instructors increased time to focus on their student's attractiveness to employers.

"We don't spend a lot of time on fraternities and football games; our students are just people trying to improve their lives," he said. "Our focus is on our students."

Curriculum design is also a factor. Fountainhead students may begin their studies in networking or programming and later switch concentrations without having to retake earlier coursework. Career Specialist Wendy Carter facilitates the gap between education and employment by arranging interviews and helping the students with resumes.

"I search for jobs and then email any potential job leads or postings to our students," Carter said. "I keep a database of their resumes. When employers contact us, I can send (students') resumes directly to (potential employers). I also meet with the students one-on-one for resume writing strategies."

Carter said Fountainhead gives students an opportunity to take an active role in their job searches, with resume-writing and interviewing workshops scheduled for spring. "Non-students are always welcome," she added. "We have new materials on how to sell yourself in a tight job market. I tell my students the best way to sell themselves is to emphasize what is valuable about them and match it with the needs of the employer."

Carter also holds mock interviews on Fountainhead's campus with real local businesses, for students in professional development classes.

In the past Fountainhead College of Technology has been solicited for recruits by Babcock & Wilcox

Co., SAIC and Elavon Inc., among others.

Wendy Carter isn't surprised by the school's placement rate.

"We have always provided our students with our job placement rates," Carter said. "It's exciting to release them to the public."

Students interested in learning more about Fountainhead can call 865-688-9422 or visit www.fountainheadcollege.edu.