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News and Events

Countdown to 'Connections' Fall 2009 Training

The Human Resources Department is pleased to announce that *Connections*, a quality-focused, customer service training program developed by Noel Levitz, Inc., will train 500 employees of Governors State University during the Fall 2009 trimester.

"In the higher-education marketplace, GSU's goal is to keep our student relations and service skills as sharp as possible," said President Elaine P. Maimon. "We must continue to learn ways to help improve our competitive edge. Everyone will gain from this type of facilitated interaction. Certainly, it benefits the students and community we serve, and will enhance our day to day communication with each other."

"HR is coordinating *Connections* training, which includes all exempt and non-exempt status Civil Service and Administrative & Professional employees," said Gail Bradshaw, Associate Vice-President of Human Resources and Diversity. "Groups of 16 to 18 trainees will be randomly assigned by HR to a group with people from other units and departments. This training is designed to be a dynamic, interactive process, facilitated by our own GSU employees. We want employees to be as participative as possible and to share ideas and observations on how to continuously improve the experience of current and potential students at GSU."

Tony Tymkow, Training Project Coordinator added, "The process of training the trainers already began for 12 GSU group leaders. They are receiving intensive instruction from a Noel Levitz, Master Trainer. GSU units nominated our group leaders based on a unique set of criteria. The selection process was definitely competitive. Our plan is for 250 employees to complete training during the last three weeks of September and the remaining 250 employees to be trained by the last three weeks in October. During training, groups attend a two and half hour meeting once a week for three weeks. There is some homework to complete for the next meeting. Employees will be advised by e-mail from Connections@govst.edu of their specific training dates and times shortly. Unit Heads will be advised of employee training schedules."

Summer Work Program Benefits Area Students

On Tuesday afternoon, GSU celebrated the success of a new, on campus workforce development program. The program, originally suggested by GSU Board of Trustees member Bruce Friefeld, was developed in coordinated with Workforce Services Division of Will County and has led to the summer employment of 19 high school and post-high school students at the university.



President Maimon commended the students for their hard work and reminded them that they were all "college material." She encouraged them to pursue college degrees and elicited feedback on their positive experiences at the university. "The program is a perfect example of how the university is reaching out to and interacting with the region," said Maimon.

While Will County had a similar program several years ago, this current incarnation is the result of Federal stimulus money dedicated to training summer youth.

"GSU is great place for the students to gain real world work experience," said Susan Flessner, Will County Administrative Manager for the program. "With the help of GSU's human resources department we were easily able to match the students with jobs that fit their individual skill sets." Program participants are currently assigned to departments throughout the university including institutional advancement, facilities, auxiliary services, and the academic colleges.

"This program has been a great success and we look forward to the possibility of continuing our relationship with GSU next year," added Flessner.

Depending on their school schedules, the students will continue to work on campus through mid to late August.

Foodservice Changes

At the end of the August, GSU will welcome a new food service provider for vending, catering, and cafeteria related operations. The new food service provider is Food Services, Incorporated (FSI), which also serves Kankakee Community College and Baker & Taylor.

GSU food service operations will be closed for annual maintenance beginning August 17 and will reopen on August 31. The annual Civil Service BBQ is scheduled for the week beginning August 24.

Contact [Jerad Garrison](#) for more information including any catering requirements during the next 30 days.

NMSP Day Trip to Chicago

The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park is sponsoring a day trip to the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago on Saturday, August 8. The focus of the visit is the exhibit of work by Olafur Eliasson. Eliasson is a Swedish installation artist whose works seek to transform spaces and visitors' perceptions of their world.

The group will lunch at Elephant and Castle, a British style pub, before visiting the Loyola University Museum of Art to view *Rodin: In His Own Words, Selections from the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation*.

The group will leave the University Park Metra Station at 8:57 a.m., take the Red Line subway to the Chicago Ave. stop, and walk from there. The return train from Randolph/Water St. station leaves at 5:38 p.m. or participants may choose to stay in Chicago longer and return on their own.

Pre registration is required. The cost is \$16 for admission, rail transportation, and meals. For more information or to register, call 708.534.4848 or email [Geoff Bates](#).

Restorative Justice Web Conference

A Restorative Justice Campus Based Web Conference will be held on August 10 and 13, from noon to 1:30 p.m., in the Hall of Honors. The University of Colorado, a national leader in the implementation of restorative justice principles on campuses, will conduct the conference.

The university has already begun the process to incorporate restorative justice practices at GSU. They include peer mediation, victim-offender conferencing, and offender accountability. A post conference discussion will take place on August 13, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Registration is free and required. Contact 708.235.3987, or email the [Criminal Justice Program](#).

Graduate Art Exhibit - Joyce Speechley

The Governors State University Visual Arts Gallery presents *Eternal Spaces: Studies in Movement and Value*, an exhibition of "fumage" drawings by graduate student, Joyce Speechley, through August 11. A closing reception celebrating the exhibit will be held on August 11, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the gallery.

Speechley's drawings incorporate graphite, graphite powder, and fumage, a technique created by the artist employing flame and smoke on canvas. Speechley has received numerous awards and has published books for PCI Publishing in San Antonio, Texas and Schaffer Publishing in Torrance, California. Speechley shares her passion for the arts by teaching at the College of DuPage.

The Visual Arts Gallery is located in the E-Wing and is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 708.534.4021.

Blackboard Assistance

Assistance in setting up Blackboard CE-8 (WebCT) course shells is available until September 5 from the staff of the Center for Online Teaching and Learning. One-on-one assistance will help faculty who are new to CE-8 set up courses and make syllabi available to students. Additional help in identifying ways to web-enhance courses to save instructor and student time and enhance learning outcomes is also available.

For an appointment, call [Jan Engle](#) at ext. 3073 or [Barbara Mandel](#) at ext.4940.



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1 University Parkway, University Park, Illinois 60484-0975
708.534.5000 | [E-mail GSUView](#)