

SEPTEMBER 2011

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## Welcome To a New School Year!

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If you are a *returning* college student, then you've had a year or three under your belt already.

Questions you need to ask yourself are:

- 1) Was my first (or second or third) year a success? If Yes, what did I do right? If No, what could I have done better?
- 2) Do I know all my resources? On-campus? South Central Scholars? Other organizations that I'm involved with?
- 3) Have I developed any meaningful relationships with professors or academics? If not, is this the year to try?
- 4) Have I *mastered* my time management and study skills?

Your answers will all be different depending on your year, your college, your experience. But these are questions you need to ask yourself at the beginning of EVERY school year because if you don't, you will only repeat this year what you did last year, both the good AND the bad. Like everything else in life, practice is key. And as we've said time and time again, NETWORKS are equally key.

South Central Scholars (SCS) is a network for you, waiting to go. Yes, SCS gave you a scholarship. But we are ready to give you MUCH MORE than a check. Do you need advice, direction, or an opportunity to chat with someone who is in the field you are interested in? Then take advantage of our **Mentorship Program** by visiting our [Scholar Center](#) and filling out the Mentee/Scholar Profile Questionnaire. It's never too late to get a mentor or career coach.

Debating whether or not you chose the right major? Wondering what kind of job it will get you? Are you undeclared with more than one interest? Then take advantage of the **Jobs & Internships Program** and start looking into internships for next summer or participate on a Career Panel webinar. Visit the [Scholar Center](#) to fill out the Internship Application Form. You can also click on [Webinars](#) to start signing up for any of the Career Panels or Alumni Webinars that are already scheduled. Don't see a webinar topic you are interested in? Email [Meredith](#) to suggest it!

Whether you're a freshman this year or a senior, here are some tips to help you start the year right:

1. Get organized.
2. Find the ideal place for you to study (it's NOT always in your dorm room!).
3. Go to class early, stay late (time permitting), and SIT IN FRONT.
4. Become an expert on course requirements and due dates.
5. Meet with your professors and go to office hours.
6. Get to know your academic advisor.
7. Strive for EXCELLENT (not just good) grades. Go to tutoring BEFORE you need it.
8. Find all your resources on campus (health, career, etc.)
9. Seek a balance of academic and social, but BE WARY of students that focus more on social than academic. You have your own goals, so don't mimic. You might not be able to afford it!
10. Make connections and build networks.
11. Don't procrastinate, prioritize your life.
12. Stay on campus as much as possible.
13. Don't cut corners!

## The South Central Scholars Renewal Application

The Deadline is now past to get a FULL year scholarship.

*If you did NOT turn in your renewal application, you can still submit for Spring 2012.*

*The information is still online.*

*(Approximately half of your normal scholarship award).*

Spring 2012 Scholarship Renewals need to be received by September 30, 2011.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Randy Winston at (310) 833-1670 or at [rwinston@southcentralscholars.org](mailto:rwinston@southcentralscholars.org).

### A Word from a Mentor: Cultivating Relationships with Your Professors

By Alexandria Williams

College is one of the most beneficial and most often overlooked networking opportunities. You are likely surrounded by key players in your field, many of whom have experience outside of higher education and research. These experts are in your reach, on your campus daily for your benefit, and most importantly their one-on-one time is free!

Here are some tips for cultivating and making the most out of your relationships with your professors:

- \* **Sit in the front of the class, stay awake and pay attention.** If you sit in the front of the classroom, your professor *will* remember you. But how will you be remembered? I had a friend who always sat in the front of the class-- sound asleep! Pay attention. It is likely that because you *are* sitting in the front your professor will call on you for an answer or illustration...don't miss your moment to shine!
- \* **Seek out professors in your field of interest early.** I once saw a girl walk up to an instructor with a reference form and tell him it was due that week. He had no idea who she was. Meet with professors of interest to talk about the class, learn about their research, discuss current events, etc. I often visited my Spanish professor's office hours to discuss film. In the process we discovered many things in common. In the end, I not only had a friend, but a stellar letter of recommendation from someone who knew me personally.
- \* **Be persistent.** Just because a professor doesn't answer your email the first time, doesn't mean he's ignoring you. Perhaps there was an emergency that day and your email was overlooked. For more popular professors, they are often receiving requests from students on a daily basis and need reminders to get to you. My supervisor for my undergraduate thesis was extremely busy both personally and professionally, but very willing to help. If email doesn't work, show up to office hours.
- \* **Mind your manners.** If you ask for a reference letter, give at least one month's notice. If the deadline is near holiday season or another break, mention your request well before a reference is due. Ask your professor when you can expect the letter and if you should send a reminder. Initiate contact two weeks before the letter is due to provide a gentle reminder regardless.
- \* **Connect outside of class.** Are you performing in a classical concert on campus this weekend? Do you have a mock trial coming up? Invite professors and mentors to your activities and events. Many live locally, and would gladly stop by to see you. I was once pleasantly surprised to meet my professor and her husband at an open mic night. She came specifically to support one of my classmates!
- \* **Stay in touch.** After you graduate, stay in touch with your favorite professors, notify them of your accomplishments, and ask them to serve as an employment reference if you need one.

Carpe Diem!

From the US News

### Brighter Job Outlook for Class of 2011

<http://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2011/03/09/brighter-job-outlook-for-class-of-2011>

Early economic indicators show positive signs for the class of 2011 as its seniors prepare to enter the workforce, according to several studies by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). Job growth for soon-to-be college graduates is stronger this year than last in nearly every industry sector, says Edwin Koc, director of strategic and foundation research at NACE. Last week, the Bethlehem, Pa.-based organization released that about 53 percent of employers surveyed intend to hire more college graduates from the class of 2011 than from the previous year, a jump from less than 50 percent who reported they would in a fall survey. And in February, the organization reported that average starting salary offers to college seniors were up about 3.5 percent from the same time last year—the first salary offer increase NACE has reported since 2008.

Sectors that typically recruit and hire earlier, including various business and engineering jobs, posted some of the highest salary increases, according to NACE's Winter 2011 Salary Survey. Offers to accounting majors, on average, have increased 2.2 percent to \$49,022; electrical engineer offers are up 4.4 percent to \$61,690, the study found. Though the winter study is a small precursor to more comprehensive reports to be released in April and September, NACE's employment information manager, Andrea Koncz, says the early results are already on track. "We weren't actually too surprised that the salaries are starting to increase because everything else is pointing to a positive market for this year's grads," Koncz says.

Nationwide, some colleges and universities have reported early boosts in recruiting and hiring, compared to the past few years. At the [University of Michigan](#), 47 percent more employers came to fall career fairs in 2010 than in 2009, the school reported to *U.S. News*. The [University of Virginia](#) welcomed 14 percent more companies to fall career fairs and has filled to capacity its new, spring semester small-group career counseling sessions for job-hunting seniors. "We have seen an uptick in our attendance both by students as well as by employers at our fairs this year," says Kendra Nelsen, director for students services at the UVA Office of University Career Services. "It's not huge and dramatic but it's reflective of the little uptick in the job market."

The state of the U.S. workforce modestly improved in February with the addition of 192,000 more jobs, according to a report released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The manufacturing, professional and business services, and healthcare fields saw particularly strong gains last month, highlighted by a spike of 34,000 jobs in the healthcare industry. For the 12 months prior, the healthcare field added an average of 22,000 jobs per month, according to the BLS report. Despite the improving job prospects, the job market remains competitive. Students should be more proactive in their job searches and flexible with short-term career goals, some counselors advise.

Instead of focusing solely on scoring a dream job, UVA's Nelsen prods her students to be open to positions in fertile industries that use similar skill sets as their ideal position might. Even if a student wishes to become an event planner or work in marketing, for instance, it might be best to consider how those job attributes might fit into positions in the healthcare or technology fields, where jobs are relatively ample, in the hopes that skills acquired there can one day be parlayed into their ideal career, she says. "Of course pursue what might be your ideal [job], but also break it apart and get experience wherever you can get experience," Nelsen recommends. "Any experience that has a piece or two of what you're trying to go for eventually can still be valuable."

And though the college graduate job market looks to be on the upswing, analysts and advisers are hesitant to tout the findings as signs of a full recovery. "We're not at the level that we were in 2007," says Koc from NACE. "Because of the recession years, it's a long way back to that level, and we're not quite there yet. It is a move in a positive direction that shows a lot of indications of coming out of the recession. If the trends were to continue...things could be very positive for the next couple of graduating classes."

By Katy Hopkins, March 9, 2011

**Scholar Highlight: D'Juan Farmer**

*University of California, Los Angeles '10*

"I graduated from UCLA in 2010 with a major in Molecular, Cell, Developmental Biology and a minor in Biomedical Research.

After graduating, I went on to conduct research at the National Institutes of Health under the NIH Academy, a program focused on research and health disparities. I worked at the National Human Genome Research Institute with Dr. Lawrence Brody.

Recently, I was accepted to the Tetrad (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, Developmental Biology and Genetics) PhD Program at UCSF. In addition, I was fortunate to receive the NIGMS IMSD Fellowship, targeting minority students focused on Life Sciences. "



**Upcoming Career Panels & Webinars**

**Career Panel: INROADS Internship Program for College Students**

Wednesday, September 21;

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM PST

[Click here to register!](#)

Registration closes on Monday, September 19th!

**Career Panel: Resume Writing**

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM PST

[Click here to register!](#)

Registration closes on Monday, October 10th!

**Alumni Association Panel:**

**Preparing for an MBA or a degree in Management**

Thursday, October 21, 2011

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM PST

[Click here to register!](#)

Registration closes on Monday, October 17th!

**Career Panel: Managing Your Careers**

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM PST

[Click here to register!](#)

Registration closes on Monday, February 6th!

**Career Panels to be scheduled soon!**

*How to tell your story in an interview*

*How to find companies to apply to*

*Salaries & Benefits*

*Job Outlook*

*Writing effective reference letters*

*Graduate School preparation*

*Conducting an effective job search*

*Social Networking Do's and Don't's*

## Update on CA Dream Act AB 131

July 25, 2011

To read about the act, go to:

<http://cadreamnetwork.org/pass-ca-dream-act-AB131>

### JOB

*Multiple Positions, UC Berkeley HAAS School of Business*

The UC Berkeley Haas School of Business's Berkeley Columbia MBA program is recruiting an Admissions manager. This position is the principle administrative resource for admissions, marketing, and recruiting operations for the Executive MBA Program. Must have a bachelor's degree and 2-5 years relevant experience. Salary is \$42,000 annually up to \$51,000 plus benefits. Also hiring an admissions assistant. For the complete job description, go to <http://jobs.berkeley.edu>.

*Teacher Naturalist, Audubon*

Audubon is dedicated to protecting birds and other wildlife and the habitat that supports them. Audubon's mission is engaging people in bird conservation on a hemispheric scale through science, policy, education and on-the-ground conservation action. The Teacher Naturalist will assist in the development, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of all aspects of programming for primary and secondary school groups who visit the Audubon Center at Debs Park. To apply, go to <https://careers-audubon.icims.com/jobs/1162/job>.

*Multiple Teaching Positions, Talent Search*

Volunteers of America is recruiting Educational Advisors and part-time Administrative Assistants for their Talent Search program in Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley. To apply, go to <http://www.voala.org/involved/careers.php>.

*Multiple Positions, Asian Pacific American Legal Center*

APALC has four new positions in their expanding citizenship program. APALC works with community partners around California to provide citizenship application assistance to hundreds of immigrants. APALC is hiring a Program Coordinator and three Community Legal Advocates. To apply, go to <http://www.apalc.org/>.

*Multiple Positions, Youth Policy Institute*

YPI is hiring a Director of Educational Technology and a Youth Services Regional Supervisor. To apply, go to <http://tbe.taleo.net/NA2/ats/careers/jobSearch.jsp?org=YPIUSA&cws=1>.

*Network Coordinator, Los Angeles Chamber*

The Southern California Leadership Network has an open Network Coordinator position. This entry-level positions will assist primarily with SCLN development, communications, and event planning. To apply, go to <http://www.lachamber.com/clientuploads/employment/SCLNNetworkCoordinator>.

### FELLOWSHIPS

*[Education Pioneers: Analyst Fellowship](#)*

*[Los Angeles Urban Teacher Residency Program](#)*

*[The Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Institute of Public Affairs: James R. Galbraith Fellowship](#)*

### HIGH SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

*[Cornell University Fall Engineering Program: Fall Diversity Hosting Weekend](#)*

*[Cornell University Fall Engineering Program: Women in Engineering Program](#)*

*[MALDEF Immigrant Youth Scholarship Program \(email Meredith Curry for application, due ASAP!\)](#)*

*[Colgate University Open House Invitation](#)*

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2011

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY / SUNDAY
			1	2	3/4
5	6	7	8	9	10/11
12	13	14	15	16	17/18
19	20	21 Career Panel: INROADS Program	22	23	24/25
26	27	28 Meredith visiting Stanford students	29 Meredith visiting Berkeley students	30	

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Career Panel: INROADS Internship Program for**

Wednesday, September 21

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM PST

[Click here to register!](#)

Registration closes on Monday, September 19th!

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**Career Panel: Resume Writing**

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM PST

[Click here to register!](#)

Registration closes on Monday, October 10th!

**Upcoming Campus Visits TBD**

*UC Los Angeles*

*UC Berkeley*

*Stanford*

*Univ. of Southern California*

*Loyola Marymount*

*East Coast Universities (Londons ONLY)*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS