



OF PHILADELPHIA THE TRI-STATE AREA

Career Day 2015

On January 23rd, the FPA Philly Tri-State area chapter hosted our first annual Career Day at Saint Joseph's University. Over 50 students and career changers interviewed with nearly 20 firms for both full-time and internship positions.

"We were very grateful to have participation from so many schools: Temple University, Villanova, Drexel, Saint Joseph's, and Richard Stockton College of New Jersey as well as a few career changers," said Benjamin Cummings, of Saint Joseph's University and one of the Career Day organizers. "We also had a great response from a variety of financial planning firms and firms who provide services for financial planners." The day also offered interviews, career advice, resume critiques, roundtable discussions, and ample networking opportunities for everyone in attendance.

"Other practitioners who weren't hiring also participated and had the memorable privilege of interacting with many young, aspiring financial planners," said Sameer Somal, of Blue Ocean Global Wealth and one of the Career Day organizers. "We were impressed with their enthusiasm and energy for entering our profession."

Interviewing firms found the day to be very beneficial. Rebecca Anderson, of Sage Financial Group, remarked, "I thought the event was well-organized and beneficial to all. I particularly liked the advice given to the interviewees about investing in themselves and their communities." Anthony Spatichia, of First Financial Group, said, "Everyone was interested in financial planning and seemed to be very steadfast on wanting to get into the field. [The interviews also let us] get to know the candidates and see if there was a good fit and if further discussions were needed."

Students also liked the focus on financial planning firms. Kevin Talty, of Richard Stockton College, said, "I liked that all the companies there were financial planning based ... I think it gave me a better idea of the type of candidate most financial planning companies are looking for."

The consensus of all who attended was that the gathering was definitively a success for students, faculty, employers, and the Philly Tri-State financial planning community. As David Benyo, of Saint Joseph's University, said, "The Career Day is something that should definitely be continued."

We couldn't agree more. Thanks to all those who made this year such a great experience. We look forward to having more firms, students, and career changers take part in next year's Career Day, tentatively scheduled for February 2016.

If you'd like more information, or want to help with Career Development initiatives in the FPA Philly Tri-State area chapter, please contact Benjamin Cummings (benjamin.cummings@sju.edu), Career Development Committee Chair.