

Dear **FIDM Parent**,

During these challenging economic times there must be many questions you have regarding the employment possibilities for your son or daughter. I would like to tell you how the Career Center is being proactive on behalf of our students and graduates.

Our number one goal is to find job openings/leads for our students and graduates. We have a current database of 25,000 industry contacts. For the year 2016, we posted over 20,000 employment and over 1,300 internship opportunities.

Year-round events bring employers to campus. Each Summer and Fall Quarter we have a **Job Fair** for incoming and returning students to help them find part-time work. In July, the Career Center partners with the Alumni Association to host **Career Connections**, where FIDM Alumni return to our campuses and speak with current students. These industry professionals talk about their careers, the companies they work for and the steps they took while attending FIDM to accomplish their goals. Throughout the year we have individual companies recruiting on-campus for entry- to mid-level positions. Last year over 200 companies visited to exclusively recruit FIDM students.

Our most supportive employers still rely on us to provide them with top talent, and we strive to match all candidates to the job order specifications.

We urge all students, from their first day attending FIDM, to meet one-on-one with their Career Advisor. Our students want to have the competitive edge, so we have implemented many programs to inform and enlighten them on ever-changing workplace requirements. We are holding graduate meetings every quarter to talk about the importance of having the perfect resume, interviewing skills, and online job search techniques. Information regarding writing resumes, bios, and interviewing techniques are on the student portal. We can't talk enough about the importance of networking, and that includes friends, family, and social media sites. Technology is the key and we are working to show students and graduates how to post portfolios, resumes, and profile packets online to reach a larger audience. Grades are important and work experience and internships are imperative.

Employers are hiring. They are taking a little longer to make their hiring decisions, but there are jobs for those ready to show their passion and enthusiasm for the industry.

Sincere regards,

Ray Gallego

Director of Operations, Career Center

FIDM/Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising