ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT SHADOW PROGRAM, 2014-2015

Dear colleagues,

In an effort to offer a unique opportunity for students to integrate curricular and career experiences, observe and develop workplace skills, and network, the offices of Career Services and Alumni Affairs are partnering with alumni for the fifth year in a row. We will repeat a highly-successful Alumni Spotlight Shadow Program first made possible in 2011 by a QEP grant, during which current WCU students will shadow WCU alumni for a whole day on the job. Starting in 2013, we expanded the program to include the Asheville area.

On March 31, 2015, we will bus students to Atlanta while also in April students will travel to Asheville and the surrounding area to shadow alumni. To apply, students must first be nominated by faculty or staff. Students must have earned at least 30 hours of course credit prior to January 2015 and meet the high standards described on the attached form.

We cannot promise to match every student, but your nomination itself will be an honor and an acknowledgement of merit. Nominations should be received by 5PM, December 19.

- We are still developing our placement opportunities for this year. In the past, Alumni Hosts were available in the fields of Business Management (both small and Fortune 500), Accounting, Finance, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Construction Management, Broadcasting, Law, Physical Therapy, Social Services, Law Enforcement, Forensics, Private and Public School Administration, Marketing and Sales, Arts and Graphic Design, Nonprofit, Medical Research, Health Care, Government, and Computer Science.
- Here is an article describing the inaugural program:
  – http://magazine.wcu.edu/2011/06/bright-lights-big-opportunity/

Thank you for supporting this program by nominating a student who stands out in your college, program, or classroom. Please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Despeaux, Associate Director of Career Services and Marty Ramsey, Director of Alumni Affairs

DIRECTIONS:

- Please submit nominations by 5:00 PM, December 19.
- Answer items 1-5 below with complete information in an email with the subject line, “Nomination for [full name of student],” and send it to Michael Despeaux (mdespeaux@wcu.edu).
- Students must have earned at least 30 hours of course credit prior to January 2015 and be enrolled as an undergraduate student.
- Please confirm your nominee’s interest in the opportunity and availability before submitting. Nominees will be contacted and asked to write a brief statement describing career goals and interests before being selected, and selection will be based on how these match with available alumni hosts.
- You will receive an email acknowledging receipt – please contact me if you do not receive a reply!

TO: Michael Despeaux <mdespeaux@wcu.edu>
SUBJECT: Nomination for [full name of student]

1. Name, title, and department of nominating educator:
2. Name of student:
3. Major, Minor, and/or Concentration of student:
4. Cell phone number of student:
5. Please write a paragraph recommending in under 400 words the student for this opportunity considering:
   a. Strong participation in your classroom or program defined by:
      – superior communication skills; or
      – demonstrated ability to solve complex problems (such as in groups or case studies or in a leadership role); or
      – an evident sense of purpose and goal orientation; or
      – evidence of civic engagement related to academic or career focus; or
      – a readiness to understand how “classroom” knowledge may be applied or integrated with experience in the workplace; AND, last but not least,
      – the ability to well-represent WCU students and your program.