

## **Job Shadowing: An Opportunity and Strategy for Success**

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Want to learn more about a field or occupation? Career Services can help students research and access information by meeting with a career counselor and going to our website. We also strongly recommend that students take advantage of opportunities such as internships, co-ops and related service learning. In between, however, there is an important strategy that can reap huge benefits for proactive students – they can network, seek mentorship and meet professionals in their fields by job shadowing and informational interviews. Students can meet employers at career fairs well in advance of graduation. They can call a professional and ask him or her for perspective and advice about entering the field. Career Services can help students make these connections. Here's one example.

In an effort to build higher levels of interest and involvement by alumni and friends in the Atlanta area, the offices of Development, Alumni Affairs, and Career Services are partnering to offer a unique opportunity for students. A committee of WCU alumni met June 1 and recommended an alumni networking day when current WCU students would have the opportunity to shadow WCU alumni on the job. We planned this day to conclude with an alumni career panel and then a dinner discussion hosted by the WCU Foundation. On March 10, we will hold a pilot program involving 15-18 students. A QEP committee grant designed to support the integration of learning and other outcomes is providing the cost of the students' transportation and participation.

To participate, students were nominated by a faculty member and will be selected by a committee. Students must have earned at least 30 hours of course credit prior to January so that they will be prepared to observe how classroom knowledge is applied in a real world setting.

Students will be hosted at Kicks 101.5-FM, W. Paul Mason, Genuine Parts, EIS, Peachtree City Physical Therapy, Probation Services Inc., Coca-Cola, EIS, Ray Engineering, Conditioned Air Systems- Gainesville, Riverside Academy- Gainesville, Merrill Lynch, Horizon Theater, and Access Computers.