



Careers, Interviewing & Soft Skills in Health Sciences Alumni Panel & Reception

Burrell Building, Conference Center, Wednesday, October 26, 2016

For students interested in developing sought-after soft skills, understanding application and hiring processes, and preparing for success in a variety of healthcare fields, alumni and real employers will share wisdom from their own careers and fields. This program offers an opportunity for any health science degree and job seeker as well as college transfer students looking for early opportunities to explore and prepare for careers in healthcare. Much of this insider advice and wisdom will be transferable to any field or workplace.

AGENDA

12:00-1:00-Panel Discussion

- Introductions: Michael Despeaux, Career Planning and Placement Coordinator
- Moderator: Mitch Fischer, Dean of Health Sciences
- Panelists:
 - Sandra Pitman, *Nursing, Supervision, Government*
 - Eliane Ramos, *Physical Therapist Assistant, Teaching, Practice*
 - Stacy Rivers, *Therapeutic Massage, Business Administration/Entrepreneurship*
 - Ginger Smith, *Human Services Technology, Management, Supply Chain*

1:00-1:30-Reception, Food, and Informal Discussions with Panelists and Faculty

PANELISTS

Sandra Pitman is working towards her 37th year as a registered nurse. She holds an Associate Degree in Applied Science from Western Piedmont in Morganton, NC and a BS degree in Nursing from Western Carolina; graduating magna cum laude. Her experience includes 16 years in acute care as a staff nurse in the operating room, emergency room, med/surg, house supervisor and as a nurse manager in Women's/Newborn Nursery and Short Stay surgeries. During this time, she held certifications in childbirth education, inpatient obstetrics, and advanced fetal monitoring. In 1997, Ms. Pitman began her career with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Prisons. During her career with this department she has worked as a staff nurse, lead nurse, Nurse supervisor and now is a Regional Supervisor with the prisons Mountain Region. Ms. Pitman is a CPR and new nursing orientation instructor, holds certification as a correctional health care professional and member of the NC Correctional Association.

Eliane Ramos is from Brazil. She lives in Sylva, and is currently working as a part time instructor for the Physical Therapist Assistant program, and part time (PRN) as a PTA at Macon Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. She has a bachelor's degree in Physical Education, a master's in Biomechanics of the human body, with a minor in teaching. She has published research in ergonomics, Parkinson's disease and biomechanics.

Stacy Rivers initially began going to SCC for a Business Administration/Entrepreneurship degree, but had been interested in massage therapy as a career. When she became aware that SCC offered the program, she signed up immediately. She put the business studies on hold but has been taking classes to eventually complete that program as well. Since graduating from massage therapy and becoming a licensed therapist, she has opened her own massage studio in Franklin (Rivers Therapeutic Massage) while also employed at a world-renowned area spa.

Ginger Smith graduated from Southwestern Community College in December, 2015 with an Associate Degree in Applied Science in the Human Services program, with Honors. She interned at the Cherokee Tribal Food Distribution Program. Before that, she worked in materials management and then as a clinical operating room technician at Mission Hospital. Currently, she works for Sonoco Plastics as the shipping coordinator in Waynesville, NC.