



Letter from the President: At The Crossroads

*Kirk Bixler Director of Career Services
Franklin College*

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What a difference a year makes! This time last year, Franklin and other central and southern Indiana communities were in the early stages of recovering from massive flooding, the historic presidential election was still months away and the economy was still, "okay," as our students were out seeking jobs and unemployment rates were what could probably be considered historically "normal".

Now, recovery in our communities is well underway, although nowhere near complete, we have a new President of the United States with a much different agenda and challenges than we saw before and we are seeing unemployment rates not seen for generations which is making it much more challenging for our students to find employment.

For many of us, we are at a crossroads. Given these tough economic times, we in the career services industry, must examine how we do what we do, take advantage of new technologies and learn to serve our students and other constituents in different ways to ensure they conduct successful career and job searches.

One thing is certain. Our roles on college and university campuses have become much more important and much more in the spotlight than ever before. We are the experts in teaching our students how to network and conduct career searches.

I believe too that CDPI is at a crossroads. CDPI has a reputation as one of the most active state career services organizations in the nation. We have more than a decade-long reputation of providing excellent professional development opportunities to our members through conferences, summer institutes and other professional

development activities.

Given this, the challenge of the CDPI board this year is to determine our direction for the future. We already know we do a great job of serving career development professionals in the state. However, the question we are asking ourselves is, "how can we do that better and can we be doing more?"

Several issues the board will be looking at to determine our future include:

- ◆ Do we want to host/sponsor larger events such as state-wide job fairs and other networking events in addition to our professional development activities?
- ◆ Do we want to include employers in our membership? Up until now, membership has been limited to career professionals at colleges and universities or at non-profit organizations which aid us in our mission. Is now the time to become more inclusive in our membership?
- ◆ Does our current mission and purpose need to evolve to address these changes?

As you can see, it will be an exciting year ahead for sure. Other highlights of the year include our fall and spring conferences and summer institute next June but more on those events in later newsletters.

As we stand at the crossroads deciding which way to turn, I am looking forward to this year and am honored to serve as your President. Involvement in CDPI and the relationships I have developed over the years is one of my favorite parts of my job. So, let's look around and see which direction we want to go.

Fall Conference - University of Southern Indiana



CDPI 2009 Fall Conference

"Green: A Color for all Seasons"

Friday, October 30, 2009

On the campus of the University of Southern Indiana

Check out our conference blog at:

DATA



THINGS



IDEAS



PEOPLE

This year's CDPI Fall Conference will focus on **Sustainability**, from eco-friendly initiatives to sustaining the Career Services profession. We will post announcements on the conference blog up to the date of the conference, so please check the site often. We look forward to seeing you in Evansville this October!



University of Southern Indiana

<http://www.usi.edu>

8600 University Boulevard

Evansville, IN 47712-3596

812.464.8600

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<http://www.evansvillecvb.org>

812.421.2200

Toll-Free: 800.433.3025



**For More Information
Go to www.cdpi.org**

Meet The Board Members



PRESIDENT: Kirk Bixler

Title of current position:

Assistant Dean of Students and
Director of Career Services

University currently employed:
Franklin College

Degrees: Bachelor of Arts:
Earlham College - 1989; Master of
Arts in College Student Personnel
Administration: Ball State

University - 1991

Career related areas of interest: I love working at a small, private institution like Franklin College. This atmosphere allows me to work closely with a wide variety of students from a variety of majors and share in their successes. I am also able to partner with other faculty, staff and alumni to teach students the skills they need to fulfill their career callings and aspirations.

Interests/Hobbies: Spending time with my family and friends and working around my farm gardening and raising goats and chickens.

Why are you a member of CDPI? What do you find most rewarding?: Over the years, I have found the professional development opportunities through conferences, workshops and the summer institutes to be extremely valuable. I also value the ideas and best practices I have been able to glean from my CDPI colleagues. Most of all, I appreciate the networking opportunities and friendships I have developed with colleagues at other colleges and universities.

University currently employed: Manchester College

Degrees: Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration & Political Science from McDaniel College, Master of Arts in Administrative Management & Public Administration from Bowie State University

Career related areas of interest: MBTI Certification, Passionate about taking the anxiety out of the career decision making process and teaching students to slow down and enjoy the journey.

Interests/Hobbies: Traveling, reading, scrapbooking, being with my family

Why are you a member of CDPI? What do you find most rewarding? I'm a member because I gain so many great ideas and friendships from CDPI programs! Working together with colleagues on committees is the most fun and rewarding part.



PAST PRESIDENT: Shelly Robinson

Title of current position:
Director of Career Services

University currently employed:

Purdue University - Calumet
Degrees: BA, MA Mass Comm
and Organizational Comm

Career related areas of interest: As the Director of Career Services, I oversee all facets of Career Services and Student Employment including assisting students with all phases of their career development and preparation. I've completed my Master's degree in Communication at Purdue University Calumet with a focus in Instructional Design and Organizational Communication. My undergraduate degree from Purdue



PRESIDENT ELECT: Liz Bushnell

Title of current position:
Director of Career Services

Board Members Continued...

University - West Lafayette is in Mass Communications. In addition to past experience in recruitment and human resources, I have taught Speech Communications and Career Lectures in Management at PUC. I also remain active with the National Association of Colleges and Employers, and the Indiana Council for Internships and Cooperative Education

Why are you a member of CDPI? What do you find most rewarding?

I enjoy learning and sharing from the diverse knowledge the professionals in this state have to offer.



TREASURER: Phil Parker

Title of Current Position:

Director of Career Services at the University of Southern Indiana

Degree(s): Bachelor of Arts, Journalism (Western Kentucky University) Master of Arts in Education (Western Kentucky

University)

Career related areas of interest:

I have specific interests in leadership relating to the career development of the college student, Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and career success, and the work of geographic economist Richard Florida (the creative class economy).

Interests/Hobbies:

I like to travel, visiting friends and family around the U.S., and traveling abroad when time permits. In addition, having grown up on a farm, I continue to dabble in agriculture on a part-time basis a partner in the family cattle farm.

Why do you enjoy being a member of CDPI?

What do you find most rewarding?

I enjoy being a member of CDPI because it allows all of us to network with our colleagues much easier and share best practices.



DIRECTOR OF MEMBER SERVICES: Susan Gresham

Title of current position:

Director of Career Development

University currently

employed: Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College; Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN

Degrees: B.S. in Psychology

Career related areas of interest: I am passionate about helping students pursue their dreams, connect with resources, and network to build relationships. I love working with students of all ages and levels of experience and am committed to cultivating opportunities for students' personal and professional development.

Interests/Hobbies: In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with family, working on home improvement projects, traveling and reading.

Why are you a member of CDPI? What do you find most rewarding? CDPI offers valuable networking and professional development opportunities. I value the opportunity to exchange ideas and strategies with other career development professionals.



AT LARGE: Nick Haggens

Title of Current Position:

Director of Career Services and Alumni Operations

Degrees: I have a BS in Business and HR Management

Career related areas of interest: MBTI Certified.

I would like to become a certified career coach someday.

Board Members Continued...

Interests/Hobbies: I like spending time with my family and providing DJ entertainment for weddings.

Why are you a member of CDPI? What do you find most rewarding? I like being part of CDPI because of the collaboration of ideas and networking with professionals in the same field.



AT LARGE:
Ashley McArdle

Title of current position: Assistant Director of Career Services

University currently employed: Indiana University Purdue University, Fort Wayne [IPFW]

Degrees: Master of Science degree in Counselor Education from

Indiana University, Fort Wayne.

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN.

Career related interest: A member of the Career Development Professional of Indiana, The National Career Development Association, and the American College Personnel Association. Is also a licensed School Counselor in the state of Indiana and qualified to administer and interpret the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator®, Strong Interest Inventory, FOCUS and Self-Directed Search.

Career related areas of interest: I enjoy representing the university and getting students and employers connected. I am a licensed Guidance Counselor in the State of Indiana.

Interests/Hobbies: Anything outdoors, gardening, landscaping, nature walks. Also sports, music and movies.

Why are you a member of CDPI? What do you find most rewarding? I Enjoy the networking, camaraderie, sharing and cooperation among members. It is important for us to work together and advance our profession in the state.



AT LARGE:
Nikki Lawson

Title of current position: Associate Director of Career Services

University currently employed: Ivy Tech Community College North Central Region

Degree: B.S. in Mathematics/Secondary Education

Interests/Hobbies: Singing, Community Service Volunteer (working with youth organizations) and traveling

Why are you a member of CDPI? A great opportunity to learn more about Career Developments and to network with other Career Service Professionals.

What do you find most rewarding? Meeting new people and gathering new information to apply in my position.



AT LARGE:
Mark Hannon

Title of current position: Associate Director of the Career Center

University currently employed: Ball State University

Degrees: Master of Science in Education –Purdue University, Bachelor of Liberal Studies– Purdue University



ARCHIVIST:
Cathy McGregor Foster

Title of current position: Associate Director, Campus Operations

University currently

Board Members Continued...

employed: Indiana State University

Degrees: AS Biology Richland Community College, Decatur, IL BS Organizational Leadership University of Connecticut, MS Higher Education / Student Development Connecticut State University

Career related areas of interest: Past President CDPI, Career Development, mentoring, 1st year experience, Sr Year Experience, Supervising Grad Interns, and CDPI!!

Interests/Hobbies: Photography, hosting gatherings at my house, church involvement, outreach to individuals with long term illness.

Why are you a member of CDPI? What do you find most rewarding? The people are a great source of information, care about the career development of their students as well as their colleagues, and oh, did I mention FUN!! I have enjoyed learning from others and being part of an economical professional development program.

MEMBER HOSPITALITY: Libby Davis

Title of current position: Assistant Director in Career Services (Student Employment and First-Year Program Outreach).

University currently employed: University of Indianapolis (beginning my 16th year)

Degrees: Bachelor of Liberal Studies, Business Minor

Career related areas of interest: Attended the CDPI Summer Institute in 1998 (have served on every Institute Committee since), Completed SEE Training (Student Employment Essentials) in October 2008 and other career-related certifications. I am passionate about serving and mentoring our students ... to help them understand options and opportunities as they prepare to take the "next big leap!"

Interests/Hobbies: Cooking and Sharing Hospitality with my family and friends!

Hanging out with my husband, our kids, and our grandkids, Singing on the Worship Team at my church, Serving on the Women's Ministry Leadership Team at my church

Why are you a member of CDPI? What do you find most rewarding? Of course I want to grow as a Career Services Professional, but I also enjoy encouraging others as they grow professionally as well. The conferences are a great way to not only learn, but to make wonderful connections with new professionals and stay connected with old friends. The networking is awesome! But the very best part of being a member of CDPI is the people! Absolutely the people!

NEWSLETTER

COORDINATOR: Debbie Blades

Title of current position: Career Services Assistant

University currently employed: Purdue University - Calumet

Degrees: Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Communication

NEW WEBSITE..... SAME WEB ADDRESS!



A new website for CDPI was launched this past spring!

New and Improved features include:

- ◆ **Information for upcoming conferences**
- ◆ **Pictures from past conferences**
- ◆ **The CDPI Blog**
- ◆ **Member information and much more!**

Check it out @ www.cdpi.org!

Article Submissions Information

Do you have a best practices or story you would like to share with your fellow CDPI Members?

**Please send to:
Debbie Blades at bladesd@calumet.purdue.edu**

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Franklin College

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CDPI

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CDPI, or Career Development Professionals of Indiana, Inc., was established in 1995 and is dedicated to the advancement of the career services profession within Indiana by promoting improved communications and cooperative ventures among the member universities and colleges for the purpose of implementing professional development, employer development and public relations activities.

Check out our Web site!
www.cdpi.org