There is nothing new about the economic downturn these days. Dr. Phil Gardner of the Collegiate Employment Research Institute (CERI), says that we are in an extraordinary age of evolving employer expectations as we progress through a recession that initiates a gamut of emotions running “from tentative optimism to doom and gloom.”

What is clear to all of us is that we have moved into an information age that is defined by data, knowledge, and information producing products quite different from the widgets of the industrial age. Students are preparing for jobs that may not currently exist, are facing problems that may have solutions yet to be discovered, and may experience many career changes requiring lifelong learning skills.

In this environment the requirement of a little experience combined with a sheepskin may not be enough to land that dream job. Understanding what modern employers are looking for has become an essential ingredient of your job search.

CERI reports that workplace expectations have experienced a significant shift in recent years. Students need to be focused, self-directed, and connected. Dr. Gardner reports that employers are seeking “candidates across all majors who can slide into a variety of positions as needed, or can adapt quickly to changing conditions with a mix of technical aptitude and essential soft skills.” These skills are:

- **Critical thinking and doing:** problem solving, research, analysis, project management;
- **Creativity:** new knowledge creating, “best fit” design solutions, artful storytelling;
- **Collaboration:** cooperation, compromise, consensus, community building;
- **Cross-cultural understanding:** across diverse ethnic, knowledge and organizational cultures;
- **Computing:** effective use of electronic information and knowledge tools;
- **Career & learning self reliance:** managing change, lifelong learning, career re-definition.

Students need an education that provides a variety of skill sets that meet the needs of the modern workplace. Employers want graduates who have the ability to take the initiative. Employees need self-management and networking skills. They should be able to foster team effectiveness, and that requires leadership, followership, and perspective. They must have strong cognitive abilities, organizational savvy, and a high degree of technical competence. Finally, virtually every job description looking for college graduates places a heavy emphasis on strong communication skills.

The 2009-2010 Executive Summary of CERI opens with the following statement: “The college labor market has hit bottom! And a steep plunge it took. Last year’s initial estimate of a decline of 8% to 10% became a rout as employers may have shed 35% to 40% of their hiring targets.”

Moberly students seeking positions in northeastern Missouri know the truth of this statement. For us it is essential to know the best way to respond to this situation. Doing a little research provided by organizations such as CERI is the first step of that process. However, at the end of your research and successful job search, please don’t forget to share your insights with the rest of us. That is truly what networking is all about!

*Dr. Bruce Jackson*
FALL 2009 New Traditions Scholarships

G. E. CAPITAL FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS
Left to right: Alicia Cook, Macon; Jessica Wilkerson, Monroe City; April Warren, Representing Scholarship Donor—G. E. Capital Financial Solutions; Dr. Evelyn Jorgenson, President, Moberly Area Community College; Patricia Twaddle, Director Career & Placement Services, Moberly Area Community College
Recipient Not Pictured: Schelly Hess, Excello; Lacy Peavler, Bevier; Chrissa Wright, Kingdom City; Nicole Bridgeman, Shelbina; Marcie Osborn, Palmyra

LADIES AUXILIARY TO VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 2654
Julie Browning, Madison; Elaine Avery, Representing Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 2654; Dr. Evelyn Jorgenson, President, Moberly Area Community College; Patricia Twaddle, Director Career & Placement Services, Moberly Area Community College
Recipient Not Pictured: Rianna Scarbrough, Marceline

DISPLACED HOMEMAKER FEE WAIVER
Dr. Greg Mosier, Dean, Career & Technical Education, Moberly Area Community College; Amy Bland, Harrisburg; Deborah Drummond, Ashland; Dr. Evelyn Jorgenson, President, Moberly Area Community College; Patricia Twaddle, Director Career & Placement Services, Moberly Area Community College
Recipient Not Pictured: Chrissa Wright

MISSOURI FAMILY & COMMUNITY EDUCATION, RANDOLPH COUNTY
Carissa Haney, Moberly; Bonnie Kisor, Representing Missouri Family & Community Education, Randolph County; Dr Evelyn Jorgenson, President, Moberly Area Community College; Patricia Twaddle, Director Career & Placement Services, Moberly Area Community College
Recipient Not Pictured: Amber Richison, Moberly

Other Scholarship awardees not pictured: Donor: Carolee Hazlet; Recipient: Jamie Eagan, Centralia; Donor: Fannie Lou Willhite, Huntsville Business and Professional Women; Recipient: Erica Johnson, Huntsville; Donor: Jo Ancel, Moberly Business and Professional Women; Recipient: Mary Carnahan, Moberly; Donor: Steve Moore, New Traditions Advisory Committee; Recipient: Amy Sparks, Martinsburg.
Fall 2009 Scholarships

Upcoming Events

Schedule of Career Counseling
Off campus Visits Spring semester 2010:

- **Columbia campus:**
  - 1/7
  - 2/2
  - 3/2
  - 3/30
  - 4/27

- **Mexico Advanced Technology Center**
  - 1/21
  - 2/11
  - 3/11
  - 4/22

- **Hannibal campus:**
  - 1/19
  - 2/9
  - 3/9
  - 4/20

- **Kirksville campus:**
  - 1/14
  - 2/4
  - 3/4
  - 4/13

To schedule an appointment for individualized career counseling at the campus nearest you, please call the Career and Placement Services office at (660) 263-4110 ext 232.

For students attending the Moberly campus, individualized career counseling is available Monday - Friday between 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. by appointment.

CAREER EXPO 2010

10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Wed., April 7

This combination college and job fair will be held at the Moberly campus in the Activity Center. Free pizza and soft drinks will be served at noon. Door prizes and raffle prizes will be given out throughout the event. Don't miss this great opportunity to network with employers and college representatives!

CAREER FOCUS WORKSHOPS

These FREE three hours workshops utilize state-of-the art career assessments including the Myer Briggs Type Inventory, College Majors Scorecard and other checklists and on-line interest, skills and values assessments. Participants will explore career options, educational and training opportunities, gain an understanding of the process of career development and take charge of their futures. Sessions are free, but please pre-register by phone (660) 263-4110 EXT 232 or email patricit@macc.edu.

- **Moberly campus:**
  - Tuesday 1/5/10 1 - 4 pm

- **Columbia campus:**
  - Thursday 1/7/10 1 - 4 pm

NEW TRADITIONS INSITUTIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Dr. Greg Mosier, Dean, Career and Technical Education; Julie Murphy, Macon; Susan White, Huntsville; Tamara Huffman, Clarence; Jamie Landes, Macon; Nicole Guerra, Moberly; Mark Gibson, Moberly; Dr Evelyn Jorgenson, President, Moberly Area Community College

Recipients Not Pictured: Andrea Krog, Clarence; Nicole Shields, Columbia; Tiffany Timbrook, Monroe City

NEW TRADITIONS PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIP DONOR REPRESENTATIVES

Elaine Avery, Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 2654
Steve Moore, New Traditions Advisory Committee
Bonnie Kisor, Missouri Family & Community Education, Randolph County
Fannie Lou Wilhite, Huntsville Business & Professional Women
Carolee Hazlet
April Warren, G. E. Capital Solutions
Parting Thoughts - "You are brilliant, and the earth is hiring…"

Excerpts from a Commencement Address to the Class of 2009, University of Portland, May 3rd, 2009 By Paul Hawken, renowned entrepreneur, visionary environmental activist, and author.

Let’s begin with the startling part. Hey, Class of 2009: you are going to have to figure out what it means to be a human being on earth at a time when every living system is declining, and the rate of decline is accelerating. Kind of a mind-boggling situation — but not one peer-reviewed paper published in the last thirty years can refute that statement.

Basically, the earth needs a new operating system, you are the programmers, and we need it within a few decades. This planet came with a set of operating instructions, but we seem to have misplaced them. Important rules like — don’t poison the water, soil, or air, and don’t let the earth get overcrowded, and don’t touch the thermostat — have been broken.

Buckminster Fuller said that spaceship earth was so ingeniously designed that no one has a clue that we are on one, flying through the universe at a million miles per hour, with no need for seatbelts, lots of room in coach, and really good food — but all that is changing.

Forget that this task of planet-saving is not possible in the time required. Don’t be put off by people who know what is not possible. Do what needs to be done, and check to see if it was impossible only after you are done.

What I see everywhere in the world are ordinary people willing to confront despair, power, and incalculable odds in order to restore some semblance of grace, justice, and beauty to this world.

Inspiration is not garnered from the litanies of what may befall us; it resides in humanity’s willingness to restore, redress, reform, rebuild, recover, re-imagine, and reconsider. "One day you finally knew what you had to do, and began, though the voices around you kept shouting their bad advice," is Mary Oliver’s description of moving away from the profane toward a deep sense of connectedness to the living world.

The living world is not "out there" somewhere, but in your heart. What do we know about life? In the words of biologist Janine Benyus, "life creates the conditions that are conducive to life." I can think of no better motto for a future economy...We have tens of thousands of abandoned homes without people and tens of thousands of abandoned people without homes... Think about this: we are the only species on this planet without full employment...Nature beckons you to be on her side...You are graduating to the most amazing, challenging, stupefying challenge ever bequested to any generation. This is your century. Take it and run as if your life depends on it!