

## **VC's COMMENTS AT THE CAREER FAIR 2016**

We are hosting two delegates from Cisco who are here to support our career fair as technical sponsors under the NUST Cisco Networking Academy and Training Centre. They will interact with Academy instructors from all academies under NUST such as University of Namibia (UNAM), CED, Lingua International College and Ministry of Defence (MOD) and with the Faculty of Computing and Informatics management. And also address a student session to present opportunities in career paths related to the Academy certifications. They will also conduct an Internet of Everything workshop with 30 Academy students. The delegates are:

1. Mr Serges Nanfack, Technical Manager Africa, Technical Field Engagement, Corporate Affairs
2. Alfie Hamid, Regional Manager, Africa , Corporate Affairs

A career fair, job fair or job expo is an opportunity for employers to meet potential employees. It is thus a dating game where the parties - while portraying their best - seek each other out for an engagement like an internship or a marriage like a "permanent job." It has been and remains a moment when the best company seeks out the best talent, and vice versa.

In today's technological age, you can have a physical or in-person engagement, meaning there is physical or face-to-face contact between the interest parties. But there is also a virtual fair which means that the parties can meet virtually, through mediums such as the Internet, video, live chats, downloadable materials.

Having said that, I need to remind you that a great journey starts with a great plan. And a career fair is a great plan - to meet, mingle, search, learn and even commit.

A great student starts with a great teacher, and a great institution. You are all privileged to be great students and pupils at a great university. This is so because you are in a great university that offers a wide range of academic disciplines that prepares you well for the technological workplace. This is especially so in a world increasingly driven by science and technology. Therefore, our profile is that of a technological university that aims to primarily

focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics in terms of qualifications and the majority of students studying here.

Higher education is under increasing pressure – from questions about the value of higher education to properly preparing students for careers. Competition for students from underprepared students and the non-traditional track adds to the strain of preparing for the future.

You should also consider these words of advice before attending the Career Fair:

### **Tips: Preparing for the Career Fair**

Research what companies are attending, who they are looking to hire, and where their booths are located.

Prepare by attending some of the Career Education events

Identify what companies you are interested in and think about why you want to work for them. This will go a long way when talking with a recruiter.

Develop a plan. Who do you want to talk to? In what order?

Visit the websites of the companies that you plan to speak with to learn more about them.

Print at least 20 flawless resumes with the intent to hand them all out.

Once you are at the Career Fair, you may feel overwhelmed by all of the students, employees, and company representatives. Remember to remain calm and confident and follow your plan. Career Services staff will be on hand if you need any assistance.

### **Tips: Attending the Career Fair**

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Try to get to the job fair as early as possible.

Plan on spending a few hours visiting the different companies.

Bring your schedule with you, so you know when you're available for interviews.

Look presentable and professional.

Don't be afraid to walk right up to company representatives.

Introduce yourself with confidence.

Don't be afraid to take the material—that's why it's there.

**Source:** <http://www.mtu.edu/career/careerfest/students/prepare/>