Preparation for the Future

Albany College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences || Albany, NY

WHAT WE DID:

Objective:
The objective of our professional development project was to take a collaborative approach and provide opportunities to help prepare ACPHS students for their future as practicing pharmacists. Our chapter collaborated with other professional organizations and career services to offer a series of events which were interactive ways to help students prepare for rotations, interviews and other professional opportunities.

Plan:
Students within the ACPHS-SSHP chapter collaborated with ACPHS-APhA and career services to organize and offer three events to prepare students for the future. The first event was Mock Interviews, which was held for second year students to help them prepare for their interview requirement for progression into the first professional year. Members of our chapter were trained by career service staff to interview and provide feedback to potential Professional Year 1 (P1) students which would simulate the 2nd year interview process. By having these students take part in an interview that would be close to the actual one weeks later gave them constructive criticism on their interview technique and their resume. The second event was also a collaboration with ACPHS-APhA, the Professionalism Runway Show. This event allowed students to enter a competition in which they were asked to wear their most professional dress, walk the runway, and have their attire judged for the chance to win a gift card. In addition, the planning committee was asked to wear articles of clothing that were unprofessional. Students in the audience were then asked how they would fix the outfit to make it more professional. The last event that was held in collaboration with career services was Road Map to Residency. This was a series of three sessions that were directed to various class years. The first two sessions were directed towards P1 and P2 students who were interested in learning more about residencies. During these two sessions information was provided about what a residency is, steps students should be taking if they wish to pursue one, how to make a proper CV, and information about ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting. The last session was offered for P3 students. During this session information was provided about the application and interview process. In addition, there was a panel of students who recently were accepted to a PGY-1 or PGY-2 residency.

Outcome:
The Professional Runway Show had approximately 50 students in attendance in addition to the 15 students who participated in the professional dress competition. During the Mock Interview event chapter members conducted interviews and resume reviews for approximately P2 20 students. Approximately 50 students attended at least one of the sessions during the Roadmap to Residency series. At these events students received personalized answers for their questions and one-on-one help/advice. These experiences also were also helpful for the volunteers since they we able to learn the same information and be part of helping others be prepared for the future. We found that by utilizing an active learning approach during these events, students found this preparation to be more enjoyable. Additionally, by taking an interactive approach, this allowed for students to retain more information, lessen their anxiety and provided an opportunity for immediate feedback during these events.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:
- Meet with other professional organizations on campus or career services
- Advertise to the student population to ensure maximum attendance (posters around campus, announcements in class)
- Get volunteers to help out with the event since (Mock Interview, Professional Runway Show)
- Select a location and date to host the event (somewhere on campus would be ideal)
- Arrange for teachers or students with experience on the subjects to help with the information part of the presentation
- Incorporate tools that make your presentation engaging and interactive (food, prizes, questions to the audience)

Please e-mail us any questions you have! sshp@acphs.edu