



Guest speakers inspire students in career building



Please join us for Part 2 of our **Professional Development Series: Career Coaching**

April 22 at 12PM
Lunch is provided.

Please RSVP to kimberly.word@csulb.edu

By *Valerie Osier*

Everyone can use resume help no matter where they're at in their careers. At the Educational Leadership Department, we have students already in leadership positions, students trying to go from teaching to leading roles and students taking a break from the workforce to focus on their doctoral program. In the first of a two-part professional development workshop series, any one of these students could take away valuable help.

Dr. Gabriela Castaneda of Cohort 7, Assistant Director of

Career Services at Chapman University, stressed the importance of networking throughout her session with the higher education students.

She talked about building networks and utilizing conferences and workshops as platforms to make connections. Knowing that the audience she was talking to were many busy working professionals and students, she told the attendees to schedule out time each week to look for jobs and "target" potential employers.

"Even if it's just an hour, research institutions and positions to find

the one you're interested in," Dr. Castaneda said.

Dr. Brett Geithman talked to the K-12 specialization students about the do's and don'ts of resume writing. He implemented his personal experience as the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services at Manhattan Beach USD, where he has screened candidates for jobs in his district, to illustrate several of his points. He explained to students how an "awkward lateral move" may look to someone screening candidates for a job.

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For example, if a candidate was a principal at an elementary school for a year, then moved to a nearby elementary school to be the principal there, it may look bad. Dr. Geithman stressed to students that they should explain those moves in a cover letter.

“Address it or the assumption is going to be that you were let go,” he said.

Dr. Geithman also told students to share something

in the letter of introduction that the potential employer can't figure out by reading your resume. If you just repeat your resume, you're wasting that chance to show the screener who you are.

“In your letter of introduction, you can really identify what your core values are and describe what you did to meet that core value,” he said. “That's something they may pick up in my resume, but now I'm telling a story.”



Dr. Gabriela Castañeda



Dr. Brett Geithman



RESUME TIPS & TRICKS:

- Don't assume they know everything. Spell out acronyms.
- Address gaps in employment.
- Have a leadership resume: 1/3 teaching, 2/3 leadership experience. If you have leadership roles as part of teaching roles, list it.
- Don't address the cover letter to “to whom it may concern.” Go on the website and figure out who you should address it to.
- Don't apply for a position that you aren't qualified for.
- Don't include “testimonial quotes” in your resume, it's distracting.

Student Spotlight: Leslie Jimenez

By Arely Soriano



Leslie Jimenez represented California with the US Department of Education when she shared the story of Native American people to the House of Representatives, Congress, and White House fellows. However, her strength and courage was not always present.

A first-generation college student, she grew up in an impoverished neighborhood. Leslie was raised by a single mother and her grandmother who were cannery and migrant labor workers. Although her community lacked the resources needed for a Native American woman to succeed, she was always told “education is a tool to keep moving forward and empower people from similar backgrounds.” She became involved in the TRIO Program of her high school which helped low income minority students succeed in higher education. During her transition from UC Riverside to the University of North Texas she experienced racism; “It was very 1950's- the thoughts of society infiltrated the institution,” she says. It was tough for her to constantly hear that her people were not important or did not exist anymore. Yet, along

the way, with the strength from her family, she was the first Latino and Black graduate in the university as well as a Latino-Mexican minor. Finally, at CSULB she felt at peace. She began her dissertation in the Ed.D program on indigenous and Native-American people. Her studies include Decolonize Research Methodology which is defined as “respecting and protecting the rights and interests of native people. She says her biggest obstacle was learning how to navigate through the program as a first generation student and teaching herself how to do research while keeping the integrity of native people. Ultimately, her goal is to inspire others from similar backgrounds to push through their hardships because they too can make a change in humanity as long as they search for the power within to move forward.