

November 2023

College of the Redwoods Career Speaker Series

College of the Redwoods knows the importance of bringing the real world of careers into their classrooms and has started a career speaker series to facilitate community guest visits and career networking opportunities in support of CR faculty and students. Coordinated through a partnership with the Arcata, Crescent City, Eureka, Fortuna, and McKinleyville Chambers of Commerce, and the College of the Redwoods' President's Advisory Council, the speaker series offers faculty a diverse network of talented and experienced business leaders to share career insight and mentorship with students. Faculty can request speakers from specific industries who visit classes to answer student questions and engage in interactive discussions relevant to a course's content and learning objectives. Connecting with the business leaders gives students a deeper understanding about future career paths and the skills required to get jobs and have successful and fulfilling careers. Comments about the value of the campus visits from industry partners have been very positive, including:

"As one of the mentors who has participated in the College of the Redwoods career speaker series, I have to say that I get at least as much from this experience as the students do. Why? Because this younger generation has so much untapped talent and ideas to teach all of us. Thank you to CR for bringing different perspectives about business ownership, managing employees, and making a contribution in our community to our students and teachers." Ken Hamik, Arcata Chamber of Commerce past board chair, and CR President's Advisory Council member

"My favorite and most useful class in my MBA program was one where we had local CEO's and nonprofit leaders come in and be very candid about their experience running their organizations. There is nothing better than real world experience! Thank you to our chamber members for taking your time to inspire and share with CR students." Shel Barsanti, CPA May Abrahamsen & Barsanti

"A big shout out to College of the Redwoods for opening their doors to our business members. Sharing insights, experiences, and knowledge is an essential part of nurturing the next generation of leaders, and we're thrilled to be part of this educational exchange. Thank you, College of the Redwoods, for fostering these connections and supporting the growth of future professionals." Jesse Miles, Executive Director McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce

"The Career Speakers' Series not only introduced my students to successful professionals in different fields, but also helped them see the practical value of what we

teach in Communication Studies--interpersonal communication, public speaking, and long-term relationship building. My students got a brief glimpse into the big picture of success. Our guests described how they learned from hard mistakes, picked themselves up, and tried again. My students learned that success isn't simply about collecting the trappings of wealth or fame or social media moments, but rather success is a mindset of curiosity, constant learning, tenacity, and service to others within a caring community." Ruthe Rhodes, Communications Studies Professor & Associate Dean of Career Education

For more information about the College of the Redwoods' career speaker series, please contact CR Director of Employer Partnerships Jim Ritter at james-ritter@redwoods.edu

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