

## **Montgomery College's Partnership with Accenture—Fall 2011**

### **Background**

Since the summer of 2011, Montgomery College has partnered with Accenture, a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company, to enhance the educational offerings of students in Montgomery College's business program. Under the umbrella of the Accenture title, "Skills to Succeed," we have collaborated with Accenture executives in providing opportunities for Accenture leaders to speak with students on a range of business oriented topics. Each month during the fall semester, senior executives have spoken with students on each campus on topics ranging from executive skills to developing strategic business plans to presentation etiquette. To date, over 150 students have been able to hear from the experts and fully participate in a rare learning experience. The chairs of the academic business departments and the campus vice presidents and provosts have welcomed the keynote speakers and acknowledged the importance of preparing students for the rapidly changing work environment of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We have also worked with Steve Lang from the Macklin Business Institute as well as Steve Greenfield and Karen Ambrose from WD &CE. Denise Graves has served as a link to counselors and faculty who spearhead internships for our students. Eric Myren (Student Employment Services) has participated in reviewing and sharing JobSTART 101, an online career preparation service that Accenture sponsors.

### **Day of Service (November 11, 2011)**

On November 11, 2011, approximately 80 students from Montgomery College had the privilege of sitting in the Warner Theatre (DC) with members of the Accenture family. The event was the semi-annual staff meeting for Accenture when they hear from their leaders and have an accounting of the roles played by Accenture staff on the national and international stage. The Montgomery College Office of Student Life, Volunteering and Service Learning fully participated in helping to identify the participants who traveled to DC for the start of the meeting at 9:00 a.m. on a bright, yet crisp, fall morning. In addition to hearing from prominent business leaders, our students had a chance to hear from Dr. Pollard on the role of the community college in preparing students for the world of work and the academy. Moreover, our students heard from a special panel of Accenture employees about their range of professional, philanthropic and life experiences. The employees also offered advice to today's young professionals who are simultaneously entering the workforce and serving the community. The day concluded with students being deployed to the Armed Forces Retirement Home and the Farm at Walker Jones for an afternoon of service along side of Accenture employees.

### **Internal and External Collaboration**

Many Montgomery College Central Service offices have combined their resources to strengthen the partnership with Accenture. Under the capable direction of David Sears, the partnership has benefitted from the services of the areas of communication and events management. A press release coincided with the launch of the first lecture series, "The CEO's Vision of the Future," in September. Student participants were given certificates of participation. Photographs were taken at each event. Melissa Pace, the director of MCTV, worked with her fine staff to ensure that each session was videotaped for later viewing by other business students who couldn't participate in the live session. A gallery of photographs from the three sessions and the Day of Service accompany this summative report.

## **Plans for Spring 2012**

Plans are being formulated now for recycling the topics from the fall lineup. Presentations that were made on one campus will be moved to another campus to expand the outreach to students on the new campus. JobStart 101 will be publicized to students across non credit and credit areas during the spring registration period. Students will be able to participate in an expanded array of service learning options.

## **Special thanks to the following individuals for their total commitment to making this a successful launch of the partnership with Accenture:**

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Jennifer Baugh

Lisa Burl

Stacey Miller

Denise Graves

Eric Myren

Karen Ambrose

Steve Lang

Ida Britton

Patti Bartlett

Kathy Michaelian

James Sniezek

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