

## Di Claudio Preps Graduates for Professional World

**Angie Di Claudio** Director of Career Development at Mt. Sierra College speaks about career placement and industry trends.

Angie Di Claudio heads up the Career Development Department at Mt. Sierra College with an important initiative: to help graduates secure jobs as industry professionals. To date, she has utilized her networking skills to help connect graduates with opportunities in leading companies such as The Disney Corporation, City of Hope and Kaiser Permanente.

“My primary purpose is to assist students with preparation for entry into the marketplace and to connect these students and alumni with employers who are seeking candidates with the skills they have,” she said.

Over the last 5 years, Di Claudio has witnessed several industry career trends. This first-hand information helps her to advise students accordingly.

“Typically, any ‘trend’ in an industry eventually becomes an expectation of the employer,” she said. “For example, when the concept of information security first came on the scene a few years ago, it seemed very specialized. Now, all computer technology professionals are expected to know some basic information security concepts.”

According to Di Claudio, this trend is further emphasized by many employers expecting someone with web design skills to have the full knowledge-base of a graphic designer. Thus, she promotes the importance of continual learning and expanding skill sets in any technology-driven industry.

Many Mt. Sierra College students who secure jobs quickly after graduation have specific characteristics that help them with the interviewing process.

“Preparation and the ability to see opportunity [are some similarities I have noticed],” Di Claudio said. “One has to realize that their first job out of school doesn’t necessarily have to be their dream job. They are able to see the value in the experience regardless of the company or job description.”

Di Claudio has noticed that many companies appreciate how prepared Mt. Sierra College students and graduates are; they are able to be effective producers almost immediately and time is money for employers. For seniors gearing-up for the job search, Di Claudio recommends the following:

1. Be bold. In today’s marketplace, it is important to be aggressive and make yourself seen.
2. Be positive. Don’t let the situations of today cloud your expectations for the future.
3. Be prepared. More so now, than ever, be prepared for your job search.

For graduates who recently started their first job, Di Claudio gives this advice:

1. Maintain a positive, can-do attitude at all times.
2. Realize that learning “laterally” is an important part of helping you grow “vertically” in the job.
3. Start building your network now. Always remember your friends and peers in school and maintain contact with them. Do the same with your peers once you get in the workplace. Friends and co-workers are your #1 avenue to new opportunities.

The current economy is a concern for many Americans—especially those affected by a lack of job security. Di Claudio feels that any economic cycle – good or bad – eventually creates new stability.

“Right now, it looks as if the medical industry, including emerging technologies for this field, will stay active as well as industries geared toward cheaper local entertainment options such as video games and going to the movies,” she said. “People are looking for cost-savvy options to keep themselves occupied since luxuries such as traveling are considered pricey.”

For more information on building your resume to target specific jobs, Di Claudio recommends visiting [www.blueskyresumes.com](http://www.blueskyresumes.com). If you need to contact Angie Di Claudio in the Department of Career Development, please call (626) 873-2166.

