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Jerrie Fiala, Editor: jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu**2007 Engineering Opportunity Day ... loaded with job hunting possibilities**

At last month's **Engineering Opportunity Day**, the CEAS Parkview Campus Halls were lined with colorful displays and bustling with the energy of hundreds of recruiters – nearly 250 representatives from 75 companies – and numerous students, all in their best “duds” and all there to discuss employment opportunities.



Stryker Instruments, which sponsored the 2007 EOD career event, was located just inside the front door at the Parkview Campus. Stryker offers a variety of internships, co-ops, and full-time positions. The company offered a career fair preparation workshop prior to EOD. Stryker is a generous contributor to and supporter of WMU.

According to event chair **Tracey Moon**, Assistant Director for Career and Student Employment Services (CSES) and Career Advisor for the CEAS and the College of Aviation, it was the largest EOD in the event's history. EOD interviewing activities on the day following the event hosted 25 companies who interviewed between 4 and 124 engineering students for co-op, intern, and full-time positions.

Stryker Instruments, headquartered in Kalamazoo, sponsored not only this year's event but also a pre-fair workshop for students interested in tips about career fair etiquette and in Stryker, which serves professionals and patients in 120 countries. “Stryker contributes to WMU in so many ways,” Moon said.

American Electric Power (AEP)/Cook Nuclear Plant representative **Melissa Radocha**, a CEAS alumnae in electrical engineering, and a student discuss job opportunities available at the plant's Bridgman facility.



Evaluations completed by a sample of 37 attending employers said they had talked to as many as 400 students. All those sampled said they plan to return next

Duncan Aviation attended this year's EOD for the first time. Although headquartered in Lincoln, NE, Duncan also has a Portage location.



year. Many noted the event's effective organization. They were impressed by having “many more students this year than last year” and by the “strong students who had done their research before coming to the fair.”

Moon, who has coordinated EOD for six years, credited the event's success to a CSES team that included event coordinators, **Keith Hammis** (peer educator-aviation student) and **Jennifer Messana** (graduate assistant-MPA candidate). Other important members of the team were imaging student **Jennifer Long** (publicity assistant), **Surangi Pradhan** (on-campus interviewing coordinator), **Amanda Manley** (assistant), and many student volunteers from several organizations. “The team and the volunteers added energy to this year's fair,” Moon said.



Black & Veatch, headquartered in Overland Park KS, representatives interviewed for internships and co-op positions.

This year's fair was the first to have a theme, and Moon recommends that future fairs have unique themes. CSES associate director **Linda Ickes** was credited for coming up with this year's “Hunting for a Job” theme, which generated positive feedback from everyone.

“They liked it,” Moon said. “I got positive feedback from faculty, staff, students, and employers who thought it was catchy and appropriate.” Plans are in the works to hold the next EOD in September 2008.

Opinions and ideas, please! Send your thoughts to the editor at jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu Thank you.