



# GCRC Newsletter

*Strengthening Partnerships  
Between Government  
and Higher Education*

[www.gcrcinfo.org](http://www.gcrcinfo.org)

December 1, 2000

Government College Relations Council

## ***President applauds 7 years of conference***

With our Dec. 1 meeting at the College of DuPage, we have successfully completed seven joint conferences with Midwest ACE and three years with Dr. Phil Gardner of Michigan State University as the featured December speaker. Our tradition with Dr. Gardner has seen us grow as an organization and adjust to the many and varied changes in the employment environment. We appreciate his loyalty to GCRC and continued research on behalf of our students.

I would also like to thank GCRC members Nancy Wajler, John Petrik, Jim Opon, Dan Walther and Bruce Bloom for representing us on the joint committee. They are creative, patient and organized people!

Our membership has grown this year. The fact that an organization devoted primarily to network development can survive and grow for 32 years

### **President's Message**

shows a dedication to professionalism and caring that is unequalled. We have been able to show that being diverse is necessary for success and serves best to enhance the multitude of talents within an organization. I believe we have accomplished the fundamental purpose of the organization. GCRC is a catalyst for opening lines of communication between employers and job seekers. It is also a professional development network, a vehicle for empowerment, and an organization that appreciates the individuality of members with similar career interests.

Best wishes for the holidays and for the new year. I look forward to seeing all of you in March at DeVry Institute of Technology-DuPage Campus, Addison, for a topic to be announced.

*- Ed Arroyo*

## **Agencies report upcoming testing, hiring**

*By Barbara Costello  
GCRC Secretary*

The annual GCRC Fall Meeting, held October 6 at the Cook County Building in Chicago, featured the Government Hiring Update. Keith Killacky, Assistant Professor at Lewis University, was our able moderator. Highlights are as follows:

### **Illinois Department of Central Management Services**

Jacqueline Greer provided information regarding general application procedures and the process by which applicant evaluation is conducted.

### **Fall Meeting**

Interested candidates should inquire about the more than 130 exams, which are given on an ongoing basis. Computer and paper/pencil versions of the exams are available.

### **Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago**

Frances Wilkins emphasized that their agency is a separate civil service system, with separate examinations and evaluation procedures.

Candidates need to become informed about when the tests are being offered. Persons interested in engineering positions are evaluated on the basis of training and experience, not a test.

Interested May 2001 engineering graduates should be encouraged to apply now.

### **U.S. Army**

Captain Pete Habic described almost unlimited officer vacancies for college graduates who pass the Army's background check and physical examination.

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## Fall meeting

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Base pay is \$24,000 right out of Officer Candidate School, along with a housing allowance and benefits. Within four years, salary rises to \$42,000.

### **Defense Contract Management Agency**

John Michalski reported that this agency is recruiting after a 10-year period of downsizing. At this time, business administration, technical and engineering positions are available.

FY 2001 positions were to be announced nationally around Oct. 15.

### **Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (Inspectors and Agents)**

Sylvia Smuszkiewicz urged candidates to apply for the Inspector vacancies by taking the examination or through the Outstanding Scholars Program.

She reported that ATF needs 1,800 people over the next 3 years. While there is no open announcement at this time, there should be another one coming out soon.

Sylvia also advised that the process takes 7 to 14 months from application to hire. Agents need a 4-year degree to be considered.

### **Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (Internships)**

GCRC President Ed Arroyo described a program that gives current students good exposure to the process of criminal investigation. In addition, their experience is comprehensive because the interns rotate through the variety of ATF groups. They complete the internship prepared for regular employment and can "hit the ground running".

Intern candidates must be juniors or seniors in college, have earned a 2.5 or better grade point average, and pass a background check to be considered for this non-paid position.

Since 1997, 42 interns from 25 colleges in and around Chicago have participated in the "Student Volunteer Internship Program". Many have been successfully placed and are now employed within the federal sector. In addition, several interns have been hired recently by state and county agencies as well.

### **Cook County**

Luis Martinez, gracious host of this meeting, informed the group that Cook County is the second largest in the United States after Los Angeles County, employing 27,000 people. They are actively seeking engineers to fill many current vacancies.

They are also trying to employ information systems and other technical professionals as well as law and law-related personnel. There is a shortage of nurses for the four hospitals run by the county, along with other allied health related positions.

While Cook County has no formal intern or co-op program in place, students interested in part-time work should investigate the Student Administrative Aide vacancies that are available in the summer. Interested candidates for full- or part-time positions should view the postings on the eighth floor of the County Building.

### **Illinois Department of Natural Resources**

Stella Gaines reported that testing will begin in January 2001 for 25 new positions. She also emphasized this state agency's commitment to equal employment opportunity.

### **Federal Bureau of Investigation**

Don Kopec described a period of uncertainty right now due to agency budget problems. At the current time, only candidates with a B.A. plus experience are being considered for vacancies, with no entry-level or new graduates being considered.

Presently, the FBI needs degreed individuals who are fluent in Chinese, Japanese, Farsi, Russian, Arabic and/or Spanish. The Chicago office particularly seeks individuals who are fluent in Turkish.

### **General Services Administration**

As John Shaw explains it, GSA runs government agencies' operations so that they can do their business. Nationwide, 163 people were recruited last year. They look for candidates to perform real property management, procurement, technical, telecommunications and others.

In addition, the GSA has many paid internship opportunities available.

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# CIOs: Experience not as vital as talent

from *Federal Computer Week*  
www.fcw.com

In a tight and competitive information technology labor market, a group of chief information officers said recently that organizations looking to attract and retain employees have to hire raw talent, invest heavily in training and offer employment perks such as flexible hours, telecommuting and job sharing. "You actually don't need people with a lot of experience—the technologies are changing so fast [anyway]," said Andre Mendes, CIO at the Public Broadcasting

Service (PBS) in Alexandria, Va. "What you need are people with potential, with love for their technology and the ability to learn quickly."

The need to be creative in employment matters is being driven, in part, by the continuing IT labor shortage, Mendes and other panelists noted. For example, Meta Group Inc. in Stamford, Conn., estimates there will be 850,000 vacant IT jobs in the United States by year's end.

The federal government, which is facing a pressing need for IT help

because of growing numbers of retirement-eligible workers, is attractive to people who aren't primarily motivated by salary, said Alan Balutis, director of the Advanced Technology Program at the Commerce Department.

But one thing the federal government can't do is to move quickly to extend an offer to a potential employee, Balutis said. Getting a federal job frequently can take 60 to 90 days. "I couldn't compete [with the private sector] even if they gave me monies to match the salaries," he said.

## Fall meeting

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### U.S. Navy

Fresh out of basic training, Ensign Dan Carlson described his own recruitment into the Nuclear Propulsion Program while he was a student at Valparaiso University. Once he'd made his decision and been accepted by the Navy, he received an \$8,000 signing bonus, \$2,000 per month salary as well as full medical and dental benefits.

The Navy particularly seeks candidates in aviation, oceanography and civil engineering.

### Chicago Police Department

Police Officer Lerma reported that they are recruiting applicants for the January 4, 2001, test date.

Candidates must be 22-40 years of age, have 60 hours of college credit and a valid driver's license. The entire process from test administration to job offer takes approximately 6 to 8 months. Upon hiring, individuals must become residents of the City of Chicago.

### Illinois Department of Employment Security

Maria Hearn Talis discussed the IDES job matching

web site. Candidates applying for unemployment fill out an application and can be contacted by e-mail, phone or "snail mail" when an employer is interested in hiring them. Employers can list job vacancies on the site as well.

### Illinois State Police (Division of Forensic Services)

Peter Striupaitis reviewed the requirements and explained the process for applying to this agency. With a B.A. in physical or natural sciences, candidates may take the general, chemistry and/or biology exams.

After 1 to 3 years of training, candidates may work in one of eight labs in the state. Tuition reimbursement is available for post-baccalaureate training.

### City of Chicago

Carol Maguire announced that the City has vacancies for technical positions, encouraging interested individuals to apply online. Currently, nursing and accounting positions are in demand.

She also recommended viewing "Looking for Work" on the City's channel on cable TV.

## Calendar of Events

### 2000

Dec. 1: Seventh Annual Recruiting Trends Conference (GCRC with Midwest ACE), College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn. Topic: Hiring Trends.

### 2001

March 2: GCRC Winter Meeting, DeVry Institute of Technology-DuPage Campus, Addison. Topic: to be determined.

March 8: Summer Employment Fair, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb. For information, call 815-753-7204.

March 28: Spring Job Fair, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb. For information, call 815-753-7204.

April 20: GCRC Spring Meeting, Governors State University. Topic: School Violence Workshop featuring Lt. Col. Dave Grossman.

To include an item in the calendar, email Ed Arroyo at [ebarroyo@chic.atf.treas.gov](mailto:ebarroyo@chic.atf.treas.gov).

## Scholarship available for federal employees

from FEDManager email newsletter

[www.fedmanager.com](http://www.fedmanager.com)

The Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund (FEEA) has awarded 410 merit scholarships totaling \$275,535 to federal employees and their dependents from across the country. The awardees will receive scholarships for the 2000-2001 school year.

Scholarships are awarded each year to civilian federal employee and dependent applicants who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and a commitment to community service.

FEEA has awarded more than \$2.75 million merit-based scholarships since 1986. These scholarships are made possible by federal employee donations during the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) to FEEA CFC Pledge #2808. The 410 winners for 2000-2001 were selected from a pool of more than 6,000 applicants.

Applications for the 2001-02 scholarship program will be available in January 2001 and are due back by March 31, 2001. For more information, visit FEEA's website at [www.feea.org](http://www.feea.org), or write to FEEA Scholarships, 8441 W. Bowles Ave., Suite 200, Littleton, Colo. 80123-9501.

## Thank you

By Bruce Bloom

GCRC would like to thank Luis Martinez for hosting our successful Fall 2000 kickoff general meeting in the Cook County Boardroom, providing continental breakfast and recruiting speakers. Also, a big thank you to Ed Arroyo for recruiting presenters for the meeting.

Thanks to Keith Killacky for an excellent job as Moderator. Keith kept the meeting running smoothly and on schedule.

GCRC would like to thank all the presenters for taking time out of their busy schedules to share their employment opportunities with our members.

Thanks to all for another productive and informative meeting.

## School Violence Workshop



with Lt. Col. Dave Grossman,  
one of the world's foremost  
experts on the roots of  
violence and violent crime

**April 20, 2001**

**Governors State University**

Free to GCRC members

Limited tickets available  
for non-members; details  
coming soon

Presented by

