



Graduate Students Learn Strategies for Entering the Job Market

Most new or impending graduates have a significant amount of concern when facing the process of job searching and are woefully unprepared to market themselves as valuable potential employees. Not only do students need to identify their “hard” skills in the laboratory, they must also both recognize and promote their “soft” skills in leadership, mentoring, working well with others, and strategic analysis of both the problem at hand and the highly competitive biomedical landscape.

To help graduates focus on strategizing their entry into the job market, the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) at the Newark Health Sciences campus is currently hosting a three-part “Boot Camp” series. These informative and motivational strategy sessions were conducted by Lauren Celano, MBA, Co-Founder and CEO of Propel Careers.

Propel Careers is a career development company dedicated to connecting talented graduates with innovative life sciences companies. They have worked with thousands of students, postdocs, medical residents, and professionals as they navigate the industrial job market. With 10 years of experience working with companies to advance drug development prior to the foundation of Propel Careers, Celano has a unique perspective regarding the life sciences industry.

In the first part of this series, students learned:

- how to prepare before the actual job search begins

- the various fields they can work in with a biomedical background (i.e. private research foundations, non-profits, Government, Information Technology etc.)
- how to decide what is of greatest importance when searching for a job. (i.e. What type of role do you want at your job? What sort of environment do you want to work in?)



Celano discussed the importance of graduates developing an elevator pitch and enhancing their online brand to help maximize online searches by employers on social platforms; such as, LinkedIn. More than 30% of jobs are filled using digital platforms like LinkedIn to fill jobs within their corporations.

The last session in this series will take place on **Saturday, April 6th**, and will focus on interview skills, developing concise, informative, and focused cover letters, practicing an elevator pitch and finally, networking with alumni. [Registration](#) is now open!

This series has been attended by more than 30 Masters and Ph.D. students as well as postdoctoral fellows across the Newark Health Sciences campuses. Each attendee can utilize the advice from the series to identify and develop their goals, identities, skills and resumes.

This article was written by [Charlene Wetterstrand](#), Graduate Student in SGS.

This series was organized by Doreen Badheka, PhD, program director of special projects at SGS.