Summary results of the February Trustee/student “speed connections” event

Carleton College Career Center

On February 12, 2009, 23 Carleton Trustees met with 95 students in Great Hall for a “speed connections” style event. The goals of this event were for students: (1) to meet and interact with Trustees; (2) to learn more about prospects for engagement as they move ever closer to their transition from the College; (3) to strengthen their understanding of the impact of the current economic crisis and the importance of being flexible during these times; (4) to further develop their capacity for self-presentation, networking, and interviewing; (5) to leave with some ideas about whom else they may contact for more information about one or more fields/disciplines.

Trustees were grouped into six different areas (Finance, Law, Philanthropy and Social Entrepreneurship, Business Entrepreneurship, Marketing and self presentation). Each grouping met with three groups of students for twenty minutes at a time. During those twenty minutes, students asked questions, queried for advice, and conversed on ways that a liberal arts education can especially be an asset in the current economic climate.

Below are summary points from a post event survey of Trustee panelists. The full results are available for your review. Please contact Brad Kmoch (bkmoth@carleton.edu), Program Coordinator in the Career Center, for complete results or if you have any questions on the data.

- 11 of 23 Trustees responded to a request to fill out a short, online evaluation form
- 91% of respondents rated their overall experience as either excellent or good
- 82% rated the quality of their interactions with students as either excellent or good
- 91% either strongly agreed or agreed that their expectations for the event were met
- Many Trustees felt that the student to Trustee ratio should be lower in order to facilitate better dialogue; in fact, several Trustees indicated that they had expected the event to be in small groups or even in 1-to-1 conversations
- Several Trustees reported Great Hall as being less than a desirable venue, i.e., “Great Hall [was] challenging acoustically”
- Trustee’s response to what students did well? Overwhelmingly they reported that students asked good, smart questions
- However, Trustee’s felt that student’s could do a better job of follow up and taking networking to the next level

On page two of this report, several graphs provide additional information regarding the event. Again, please feel free to contact Brad to receive a complete report of results.
Q1. On which group did you participate?

- Finance: 30.30%
- Marketing: 27.27%
- Law: 18.18%
- Philanthropy and Social Entrepreneurship: 9.09%
- Self-Presentation: 9.09%

Q4. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: - The amount of time allotted with each panel was appropriate.

- Strongly agree: 46.45%
- Moderately agree: 36.30%
- Moderately disagree: 9.09%
- Strongly disagree: 0%
- Not applicable: 9.09%

Q5. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: - The physical layout of the event was appropriate.

- Strongly agree: 36.39%
- Moderately agree: 19.19%
- Moderately disagree: 0%
- Strongly disagree: 0%
- Not applicable: 9.09%

Q8. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: - The information I received prior to the event was appropriate.

- Strongly agree: 45.45%
- Moderately agree: 36.36%
- Moderately disagree: 6%
- Strongly disagree: 0%
- Not applicable: 10.19%