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Foundations of Business

November 26, 2013

“Eportfolio”

The Eportfolio is unnecessary extra work to add to a college students work load. The purpose of the Eportfolio is to allow future employers to look at a profile of all of a student’s work they did in their general education classes in college and to view a resume made by the student. The intentions of the Eportfolio are great because it is a way for employers to view everything all in one place. The problem is that it is not well enough known. Before I moved to Utah last year, I had no idea what the Eportfolio was and neither did anyone else from out of state. I have talked to a few students that attend the University of Utah and they had no idea what the Eportfolio was either. A few of them had heard of it because they have friends that go to Salt Lake Community College, but they still weren’t aware of its use.

I called ten businesses to see which, if any, of them use the Eportfolio for hiring employees. I called the corporate offices of Nordstroms, AT&T, US Bank, United Airlines, AM Trak, Exxon Mobile, and Gerber. None of the above businesses used the Eportfolio as a hiring aid. They also had no idea what I was even talking about when I asked them about the Eportfolio.

I also called 1-800 Contacts, because its corporate office is located in Draper I figured I might have more luck. No. They had however heard of the Eportfolio but not through their business. They did however say that they sometimes like to ask to see some of a students work from college, if the student is willing to share, so they can see how the student works. 1-800 Contacts also shared with me that they look into hiring business students from the Salt Lake City area as interns while a student is still in school because it welcomes them into the business world while still learning about it. After speaking with a representative from 1-800 Contacts, she thought it could be beneficial to suggest to the company that they use the Eportfolio to hire perspective employees.

I decided to call a ski resort because many people currently in college will work a seasonal job at a ski resort. Since Ski resorts are privately owned they do not have corporate offices, so I just called directly to the resort and talked to someone in charge. I called Brighton Ski Resort, just about 20 miles east of Salt Lake City, to see if they used the Eportfolio. They too, also said that they didn’t use any information from college when hiring their team members. Brighton Resort stated that their main concern when hiring staff members is that they are friendly and work hard. The man I spoke to, Dave, said, “how am I supposed to tell if someone is friendly based on their essay about molecular bonding?” I definitely agree with his statement, that some businesses don’t need to know a student’s work from college to figure out if they are a reliable worker or not.

The last place I called was Salt Lake Community College itself. The college doesn’t even use the Eportfolio to hire all of its employees. They did say though, that they will use it when they are hiring current students for jobs on campus just to check it out to see the progress and items inside of it. When hiring faculty, they do not. It amazes me that a school that requires students to make this profile of all of their works throughout school at SLCC, doesn’t even ask for it when hiring their employees.

For personal reasons I feel like the Eportfolio could be beneficial. It is a way for a student to organize their best works from their general education classes, so they can look back at their progress and work. It is also a god place to keep all of your work, along with a resume so you always have a place to go back to and update it.

Based on the data that I collected from the ten businesses I called, I feel like the Eportfolio is a definite waste of a student’s time. I know this because I am a current student with a heavy work load and a part time job. Adding the stress of making sure your Eportfolio is up to date the same time as finals every semester is very stressful and unnecessary.

**Data:**

Nordstroms NO

AT&T NO

Gerber NO

United Airlines NO

Brighton Ski Resort NO

1-800- Contacts NO, but valued the idea of the Eportfolio

SLCC Sometimes

US Bank NO

Exxon Mobile NO

AM Trak NO