

## Accounting Advisory Meeting

10/3/2019

### Cyber Security

- As in many fields, Cyber Security is a hot topic in the Accounting field because of the threat it poses to financial information.
- The average accountant needs to be cautious and apply common sense.
  - Example: In cryptography and computer security, a **man-in-the-middle attack (MITM)** is an **attack** where the attacker secretly relays and possibly alters the communications between two parties who believe they are directly communicating with each other.

### What are employers looking for?

- Strong communication skills...contrary to some stereotypes, Accountants do need to interact and work with lots of different types of people
- Related work experience
- Fit... “Likability” Factor
- Quick to learn
- Advanced Excel
- A strong technical knowledge of whatever is assigned but also an honesty about what they don’t know.
- Someone who demonstrates an interest in the field.
  - Example: Reading the “Orange County Business Journal”
- “Go-getter” attitude
  - One employer said he’d prefer the “C” student that asks questions and demonstrates a “go-getter” attitude to the student with a high GPA and experience.
  - Annie Choi, Division Director for Accountemps, said that she is willing to groom and place students who are enthusiastic with no experience...though Excel seems to be really helpful. (Annie Choi’s contact info can be found on FCCareerConnect)
- Look for opportunities to connect with key people and make a great impression
  - Example: While on an Office Tour ask questions and engage with key people.
- Basic Professional Etiquette (that is appropriate for the culture of the office)
  - Examples:
    - Not using your cell phone during working hours (many Accounting firms in Orange County are “old school”)
    - Not removing your shoes during working hours.
    - Calling in when you are not going to be in the office.
    - Saying “hello” and “thank you”

### Vivek Mande, Department Chair, CSUF Accounting Department

- In Fall 2020 the CSUF Accounting department will become the School of Accountancy

- Accounting transfer students who are interested in the Big Four Accounting Firms (KPMG, Ernst & Young (EY), Deloitte and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)) are at a disadvantage if they do not complete an internship or participate in a Leadership Academy during their first year. These Leadership Academies serve as a pipeline to employment.
- 15% of CSUF Accounting graduates find positions at the Big Four.
- He also advises that as soon as students transfer they should be connecting with the Career Center as students are typically recruited during their junior year.
- There are lots of career opportunities, including private companies and in consulting
- Vivek Mande was excited to hear that Fullerton College has developed a Data Analytics Certificate that will include a Python Programming course. More information on this certificate to come.