

CAREER FORUM COMMUNITY COMMENT April 13, 2017, Mike Goldsby

I graduated from College of the Redwoods in 1972. I worked on local dairies and went to both daytime and evening classes. I was pretty happy with an affordable education that prepared me to go to Humboldt. I went to Humboldt State College but it turned into a University my first year . My Mom was so proud that I went to a University.

I started teaching at CR in 1987. Part time instructors are called Associate Faculty. I usually taught one class each semester in the Drug and Alcohol program, now called Addiction Studies. I taught at night, after my fulltime job, with most of the students doing the same thing; working all day and getting an education at night.

The Addiction Studies Certificate program prepares students to obtain State Certification as a Drug and Alcohol Counselor. Some people just take a class or two. Some take them because they have a personal interest or because the units are transferable to a four year college. But many of the students take the entire two year program, going to CR one, two or even three nights a week. A few students travel from Southern Humboldt, or Hoopa or even Crescent City, leaving at 9 at night to drive home. Students put a lot of hard work into this program.

The program teaches students the basic drug categories, including signs of intoxication, addiction, overdose and withdrawal. They learn the concepts of drug use, abuse and addiction. They also learn about treatment and prevention approaches, including Harm Reduction, Abstinence and all points in between.

They also learn about related problems, like compulsive gambling, eating disorders, co-occurring disorders and more. They learn the skills necessary to be an entry level counselor; Screening, assessment, referral, individual counseling, group counseling and education and prevention.

We are pleased that a large number of our graduates are now employed in local programs, many in administrative and leadership positions. And quite a few have gone on to the Social Work program at Humboldt State.

To learn more about the job market, my current students are planning a Career Forum, open to the public, featuring a panel of graduates from Addiction Studies, describing their career paths. This is the Fourth Annual Career Forum, a great place to learn more about the program at CR.

The students plan the program, moderate the panel, cater the refreshments. The forum is next Monday night, April 17, from 6 to 8 p.m. Doors open at 5:30. It will be held in the CR Board Room, upstairs in the Student Services/Administration Building at the CR Eureka Main Campus. For more information, call 476-4100, extension zero.

The employment potential for drug counselors is good. Humboldt County has a strong core of residential and outpatient facilities. The MAC may be used as a treatment facility. Pelican Bay is definitely looking to recruit entry level workers. And Humboldt County is recruiting as well.

I enjoy these Career Forums, a chance to see former students who are successful and an opportunity to see my current students shine at the Addiction Studies Career Forum, April 17th, 6 to 8 p.m. at College of the Redwoods.

This is Mike Goldsby for Community Comment.