

**Natural Resources, Fisheries and Sciences Career Day 2009**  
**Employer Panel 10:30-11:30am and 1:00-2:00pm Wood Center Ballroom**

Students... Come learn about:

- Qualities, skills, education, and experience employers are looking for in potential candidates.
- The wide range of possible educational, employment and internship opportunities available
- Whether or not a graduate degree is helpful in your field of interest

**Panelists:**

Federal: Heather Knudsen, *US Fish and Wildlife Service*

State: De Anne Stevens, *Alaska Div. of Geological and Geophysical Surveys*

State: Tom Taube(10:30-11:30), Matt Evenson (1:00-2:00)*AK Dept. of Fish and Game, Sport Fish*

State: Jackie Kephart, *Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Div. of Wildlife Conservation (1-2pm only)*

Private: Steve Murphy, *ABR, Inc.*

**Format:**        *Introduction of Panelists and Employer Representatives in the Audience*

*Panelist Questions*

*Questions from the Audience to others in the Audience or on the Panel*

**Guidelines**

Brief answers and pertinent to the majority of students in the audience.

If many people want to talk at once, raise hands and we will keep track of the order.

**Questions to Ask Employers during an Employer Panel**

- What top 3 qualities, skills, and abilities do you look for in successful candidates?
- Does your company hire on a continual basis or just at certain times of the year?
- How essential is it to have a graduate degree? Would it be helpful for candidates to have graduate degrees in the same field or vary it like a BS in Biology and Business Management?
- Are entry-level candidates able to negotiate a salary at your agencies/companies? If yes, what process would you suggest?
- How valuable is summer job experience or internships for students?
- What benefits are offered at your agency or company?
- What is the most important class you took in college to prepare you for a job in your field?
- Is there room for advancement in entry-level positions? If so, what qualities, skills, experiences, and education do you look for in candidates in order to advance them?
- What non-academic experiences would be valuable for students to have?
- What kind of entry-level positions exist within your company and what can I expect to be doing 2, 5, 10 years from now?
- What percentage of applicants are eventually hired?
- What are the unspoken expectations in your company?

**Questions to Ask Employers during a Career Day or Job Fair**

- What qualities, skills, experiences, and education do you look for in candidates?
- What does a typical day look like in your line of work?
- Why did you join and stay with your agency or company?
- What type of training or workshop programs do you offer new employees?
- What are typical career paths? What are realistic time frames?
- Is there a GPA cut-off in the recruiting process?