A recent survey of Cal State Fullerton alumni summarized the following skills as critical in securing a professional job after graduation and achieving success in your first career:

Employers seek professional employees who are proficient communicators with the ability to write and speak comfortably in public. You can develop strong communication skills by taking classes and incorporating other experiences that include writing projects and public speaking activities.

Employers seek graduates who can demonstrate leadership both on and off campus. Community activities, class work, as well as jobs and internships provide excellent opportunities to take charge of a project or activity and therefore develop your leadership skills.

All work environments require the ability to work with others and be a part of a team. Employers look for new hires to be able to fit into their system and be an active team member.

Employers expect new college graduates to be familiar with standard business computer applications including word processing, spreadsheets, data management, and presentation software. You can increase your computer/technical skills in classes, workshops, and experiences that focus on applying technology and learning software programs.

NISOD AWARD GIVEN TO IMPACT MATH SPECIALIST, LORETTA WALDROUPE

Our own math specialist, Loretta Waldroupe, graduated from Cowley in 1986 and later from Southwestern College. She was recently nominated for a Master Teacher of Excellence Award from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development, NISOD. Loretta will accept her award in May when she travels to Austin, Texas. Cowley College Vice President of Academic Affairs, Sheree Utash expressed that Loretta "is a very gifted and talented educator that is very deserving of this award; she is committed to teaching and learning both in and out of the classroom with passion and dedication to student success."

Important Reminders

- Students are required to have a monthly meeting in May.
- If you are a current IMPACT student, you are automatically a part of IMPACT for the next school term! You do not have to reapply.
- IMPACT Staff will be available during the summer months.
- Spring Supplemental Grant Aide checks will be available in late June. If you are unsure if you qualify or have met all your requirements, call or stop by the office.
BRANSON, MISSOURI HERE WE COME!

Fire-in-the-Hole, Lost River of the Ozarks, Thunderation, WildFire—with speeds up to 66 mph, PowderKeg—goes from 0-53 mph in 2.8 seconds, and the GIANT Swing are just a few of the rollercoaster and water rides which several of us will be enjoying on an upcoming trip to Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri. A Bluegrass and BBQ Festival will be taking place while we are there, which will provide many cultural experiences. Director Jason O’Toole, Secretary Roxanna James, and English Specialist Dianne Flickinger will be taking 18 students on a Cowley bus to Branson, the second most visited travel destination in the United States. We leave on Wednesday, May 21 to play and to be entertained for three nights and four days in Branson. We will also enjoy go-cart racetracks, miniature golf courses, shopping galore, hearty and delicious food at Lambert’s Home of Threwed Rolls. Just clap your hands, and a waiter or waitress will throw a fresh homemade roll across the restaurant for you to catch and eat! You will not be able to eat just one! Dixie Stampede, a show produced by Dolly Parton, is one of the two shows that we will attend. Soldiers on horses from the North and South will be in competition with each other. Audience participation is encouraged as you cheer for the North or South, clapping, hooting, and stomping the bleachers for your favorite team. A Southern dinner will be served as you watch the show, while eating your own rotisserie chicken with your fingers. Have you ever watched people ride an ostrich in a race? You will at this show!
SHE WENT BACK TO SCHOOL

It is never too late to return to the classroom, get a diploma and fulfill your dreams. Andrea Healy, 37, Paxton, Mass. shares her story and how she did it for her kids.

I didn't always make the best choices when I was young. I used to pull into the parking lot at my community college and say, "I don't want to go today." I wanted to have fun. If I had just followed through, my life would have been much easier. But I had my first daughter at 19 and put off school, which set back any hope of college graduation. I had an epiphany about three years later, when my second daughter was 10 days old. I was a single mom and sole provider, living paycheck to paycheck doing electrical assembly work. I realized that I was responsible not only for my own life but for the imprint I would leave on my children for years to come. So I decided to go to college part-time. I crammed as many classes as I could into two nights a week after work, and somehow I made it happen. Over the years, my daughters gave me the fuel to keep going. They thought it was cool that we all had homework. They even helped me with some of my assignments! I finally go my associate's degree in business administration in 2004, after 10 years. My girls attended my graduation ceremony. It was a proud moment. The lessons they learned by watching me complete that journey are far more meaningful than any roadblocks I encountered along the way. I hope my experience has taught them the importance of a good education, of finishing what you have started and of knowing you can do and be anything you want. Since I've gotten my degree, it is amazing how new job opportunities have opened up. I am currently an assistant in the human resources department of a construction company and I love it. I deal with workers who are going through the same things I did, like not having enough money or worrying about their children's futures. It's nice to know that at the end of the day that I've helped someone. My daughters are now 17 and 14, and they have learned more from my experiences than I ever could have hoped. They are avid athletes, volunteers in our community, student-council members and all-around great people. My older daughter is gung-ho about college and knows exactly what she wants. It has been so nice to see her enthusiasm. Going back to school was the best decision I could have made for my family and myself.

YOUTHFUL DRINKERS

"Our youth are our greatest resource in this county," said Cowley County Under sheriff Don Reed. He said he was surprised to find that Cowley County was No. 1 in alcohol arrests out of 10 counties that he compared it to. State Senator Greta Goodwin (Winfield) said that "15.6 percent of 100 children" binge drink every week.

Ark City Police Chief Sean Wallace spoke to parents and audience members April 14th, 2008 at a town hall meeting held on the Cowley College campus. He narrated a presentation on the effects of alcohol; notably the effects that occur at each age level. The mind does not completely mature until age 24. He said that many of the decision making skills present in adults at ages of 21 and up are not there yet in teenagers. If you add alcohol to that developmental stage you only inhibit it," he said. Wallace said that the number of rapes in the county have risen in the past three years, along with issued Minor In Consumption charges.

"There's a direct correlation between the two," he said. Wallace warned that abuse of alcohol can lead to abuse of other drugs. "Alcohol is traditionally a gateway drug." Wallace also said that those who want to report an underage drinking party anonymously could call the Crime Stoppers at (620) 442-7777. "You may save someone's life." "We've got a lot of good kids in this county who aren't in trouble, so let's not forget them."

ARKANSAS CITY OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD

He came to Cowley College from Wichita, Kansas. He originally planned to attend Hutchinson but realized he had more financial advantages at Cowley in Arkansas City. This honor roll student is taking 20 credit hours while striving to compete as a champion boxer. He won his last two matches and will be going to Grand Rapids, Michigan next week to compete in the National Golden Gloves Amateur Championship. Some of the best fighters to ever enter the ring started at this amateur level. And, did you know he was hit in the jaw by Miss Kansas, winning the Cin-cin-nati competition which he received the best smile and formalwear award during the competition? We were delighted to learn that Manny Thompson, a Freshman IMPACT student here at Cowley, was nominated for student of the month in April. This led to his nomination as one of the top three college students to compete with the top three high school and top three middle school students of Arkansas City. Manny came out on top as a truly deserving Arkansas City Outstanding Student Award. Manny must have won the judges over with his winning smile, and motivating attitude.
Congratulations Cowley Graduates of 2008! We are looking forward to celebrating with those of you who are planning to walk across the stage on May 10, as well as those who chose not to walk, to receive a well-deserved diploma. We hope that this is the beginning of a successful future. Keep the following quotes in mind as you continue your journey.

Be an original, not a copy.

Find a friend in everyone.

Be enthusiastic!

Find balance, it does exist.

Data is cheap, wisdom is priceless.

Inspiration is in. Make time to relax, you deserve it.

Map your way, or someone else will.

Communicate clearly, clear is rare.

Hard work = #1 success habit.

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We’re on the web.
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