

# University seeks BC3's experts in job talk

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(Indiana, PA) Dr. Nick Neupauer, president of Butler County Community College, was the keynote speaker and Morgan Rizzardi, BC3's associate director of admissions, was a panelist at Indiana University of Pennsylvania's second community college fair, the existence of which, Neupauer said, trumpets the strength of community colleges in Pennsylvania and across the country.

"In 2017 heading into 2018, affordability, accessibility and quality of education are more important than ever before," Neupauer said. "IUP, with various graduate programs, gave its students the opportunity to learn more about careers at community colleges, which demonstrates how favorable community colleges are nationally."

IUP enlisted speakers from community colleges in California, New York and Pennsylvania to share their expertise and career pathways with graduate-level students.

"This underscores," Neupauer said, "that the pendulum has swung in community colleges' favor."

In his keynote address, titled "So you're interested in a career at a community college?" Neupauer discussed how community colleges represent a wise choice and a unique sector, the history of higher education and of community colleges, and his career path from journalist to becoming BC3's eighth president.

## Senior institutions seek partnerships

Neupauer served as dean of humanities and social sciences at BC3 from 1999 to 2004, and as vice president for academic affairs from 2004 to 2007.

"When I started at BC3 in 1999, we didn't have an opportunity to talk with nearly as many universities and private institutions and even community partners," said Neupauer, whose 11-year presidency at a single institution exceeds that of any current leader among Pennsylvania's community colleges, its 14 State System of Higher Education institutions and its four state-related schools – Lincoln, Penn State and Temple universities, and the University of Pittsburgh.

"This just really reinforces how often four-year colleges and universities want to learn more about community colleges and want to partner with community colleges."

BC3 has bachelor's degree completion partnerships in nursing and in communications-public relations with Chatham University, in accounting with Clarion University of Pennsylvania, in business administration with Franklin University, in psychology with La Roche College, and in administration of justice with the University of Pittsburgh.

BC3 will also offer the opportunity for students to complete a bachelor's degree on its main campus in information technology from La Roche College beginning in fall 2018.

The message that he believed resonated most among the crowd of nearly 100 was “no matter what opportunity you are given, make the most of it, because you never know with whom you will be interacting, communicating and working.”

In addition to BC3, among those community colleges represented at the fair were California Community Colleges Registry; Community College of Allegheny County; Jamestown (N.Y.) Community College; Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, Johnstown; and Westmoreland County Community College, Youngwood.

Panel discussions were named “Applying for jobs at community colleges,” “Teaching at community colleges” and “Working in administration at community colleges” – upon which Rizzardi served for a second consecutive year.

Rizzardi and fellow panelists Larry Brugh, of Penn Highlands; Cori Dunagan, of Jamestown; and Mary Lou Kennedy, of CCAC; fielded questions on how faculty and student affairs staff collaborate, how one might cross from one division to the other, and whether administrators could teach, Rizzardi said.

“I think that at four-year colleges and universities employees are very siloed in what they can and cannot do,” Rizzardi said of those who become either administrators or instructors. “(Participants at the fair) were surprised to learn that at a community college you have a lot of opportunity to collaborate.

The best part about working at a community college, Rizzardi said, is that it capitalizes on her skill sets.

“I have always said that I am more of a generalist by nature, and I really believe that is one of the positive aspects,” she said. “Even though you have your specialty area, you have the ability to serve on committees, and advise organizations and even teach a course. There are so many more opportunities to try different things at a community college, in my opinion.”