Navigating a Career Fair during Your First Year

As a first-year student, you’ll have a blue sticker on your name tag. Employers will recognize the sticker: use this to your advantage! View the registered employers on Handshake, and filter for “school year, freshman” to see this list of 25+ employers who specifically mentioned an interest in first year students.

BEFORE THE FAIR:
- RSVP in Handshake. Student who RSVP will receive the most up-to-date info!
- Use Handshake to research registered employers. Never ask “what does your company do?”
- Plan your outfit to make a good impression; we suggest dress slacks or a skirt and a nice shirt.
- Update your resume to show your college major and activities and bring copies to the fair. Stop by Career & Professional Development for help!
- Catch the event shuttle from the EUC. It runs continuously from 1:00 – 4:30.

DURING THE FAIR:
- Visit the Career & Professional Development Coaching Zone for a last-minute pep-talk!
- Consider what you will say to organization representatives. A good starting point is with your own introduction:
  - "My name is Pat and I am a freshman computer science major. I noticed in Handshake that you have an internship program that is open to first year students, and I am excited to learn more!"
- Give yourself plenty of time to visit the tables that catch your attention.

AFTER THE FAIR:
- Apply for positions on Handshake.
- Use LinkedIn to follow up with employers you met at The Fair.