

Non-profit groups recruit

Business graduates offered careers. Jobs fair seeks candidates who want jobs that combine altruism with financial savvy

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Yes, there is a place in this money-hungry world for the marketing or finance student interested in pursuing a career in a not-for-profit organization.

And yesterday, more than 120 students worked the room at a career fair focused on helping them combine their business skills with altruism by providing alternatives to traditional corporate careers.

"Demand for business graduates is growing," said Michel Chaurette, executive director of the Canadian Centre for International Studies and Co-operation, in his keynote address at the Hautes Études Commerciales.

Non-profit organizations need people with experience in business administration, strategic positioning, finance - and even marketing, Chaurette added.

"The choice is yours: have a good career and be happy."

The information session was organized by the Community Experience Initiative, a Montreal-based program that places business students in paid internships with Canadian firms operating in the voluntary and responsible-business sectors.

CEI co-founder Kariann Aarup, a social entrepreneur and lecturer at McGill University's Faculty of Management, said she recognizes that business people earn degrees to "get jobs. But how do you match that with social and environmental issues?" she asked.

Participants in the fair included Kids Help Phone, Oxfam Quebec, Santropol Roulant, the Canadian Human Rights Foundation and the World University Service of Canada.

CEI hopes to offer 25 internships to students this year, five of which are overseas. The salaries range from \$1,500 per month for undergraduates and \$2,500 per month for graduate students.

One drawback to forging a career in the non-profit sector is having to forgo a potentially higher corporate

salary.

"It is a serious concern - not just for the salary but for the benefits and career-advancement opportunities," said social entrepreneur and CEI co-founder Eric Steedman.

But he said there are ways of dealing with this issue. For example, in the U.S., there are loan-forgiveness programs for students choosing to work in these sectors.

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