

A Closet for Career Seekers

UNH Career Center makes dressing for an interview less expensive

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You don't get a second chance to make a first impression, but making a good impression can be expensive—especially if you're a college student with a wardrobe that's more jeans and t-shirts than business suits. Now, though, with a little help from

the UNH Career Center, Wildcats stepping out of the role of student and into the role of career hunter can outfit themselves for interviews with a step into the new Career Closet.

Located in a room on the ground floor of Hood House, Career Closet offers racks of clothing and shoes—all donated, and all free—for students in need of professional garb. The idea is to help UNH students look their best on interviews without breaking the bank.

“Many students just don’t have much disposable income to spend on clothes,” says Krystal Hicks, associate director of career support and employer outreach at the UNH Career Center. Hicks modeled Career Closet after a successful program she spearheaded at another college. “The Career Closet will give students a confidence boost, knowing they’re looking their best.”

Hicks says the Career Closet motto is, If you like it and it fits, it’s yours. There’s no need to return items, although for those who want to pay it forward, the Career Closet would welcome them back. Students can call or e-mail the center to set up a time to browse.

The Career Center introduced Career Closet to about 80 businesses last month, and recruiters have already dropped off suits and other interview-appropriate attire. Donations from the campus community and alumni are welcome on an ongoing basis.

“We’re looking for everything,” Hicks says. “Shoes, ties, men’s clothing, women’s clothing. If it’s interview-appropriate and like new, it’s a go.” She says interview staples such as black slacks, black flats, collared shirts, and ties will always be in high demand.

Although the closet just opened this month, Hicks expects it to become busy soon. “October is a huge recruiting month on campus. I think we’ll see a lot of traffic because of the Career Fair and employer information sessions. Students really want to make a good first impression.”

If you’re fall cleaning, downsizing, right-sizing, or constantly trying to make space in an overstuffed closet, consider liberating some of your togs for a worthy cause. In addition to clothing, the Career Closet welcomes donations of hangers, rolling closets, and mirrors.

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