Bennett College students take advantage of chance to interact with officials from graduate and professional schools, weigh their options

GREENSBORO – Bennett College students got information on prospective graduate and professional schools Friday during a Graduate and Professional School's Information Day Fair sponsored by the Office of Career Services.

Held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the Global Learning Center, the fair featured 24 institutions of higher learning, including Howard University in Washington, D.C., with which Bennett has a dual-degree program in pharmacy. Bennett also has a dual program in occupational therapy with Winston-Salem State University, which was also represented.

"One of the main reasons I'm here is because of the partnership we have with Bennett," said Marlon Prince, admissions and records officer. "If a Bennett student is a biology major and wants to go to pharmacy school, she applies in her junior year. Her first year of pharmacy school at Howard constitutes her fourth year at Bennett. After that first year she returns to Bennett to get her bachelor's degree and then returns to Howard for three more years to get her Doctor of Pharmacy."

Marwah Jasmin, who graduated from Bennett in 2016, talked to Prince during the fair.

"I'm interested in going to pharmacy school at Howard so that's why I came," Jasmin said. "I wanted to let them see me in person because I know meeting in person rather than blindly sending in applications or calling on the phone can make a big difference."

Jasmin lives in High Point and learned about the opportunity from Darryl K. Johnson, director, office of career services.

Dejah Allen and Timelia Honablew, both first year students, said they wanted to take advantage of the fair because it's never too early to start learning about options available to them. Both said they plan to pursue education beyond the undergraduate level.

"I think the fair was useful because it was interesting to see the different schools," said Allen, 18, of Brentwood, New York. "I plan to go to medical school, but graduate school is an option as well."

Honablew said she was grateful for a chance to meet officials from different institutions without having to travel and spend money to get to them.

"Bennett always offers these opportunities to us, and I wish more Bennett Belles would take advantage of them," said Honablew, 19, from Greenville, North Carolina. "This is a good benefit of being a Bennett Belle."

Dr. Henry Meares, representing the University of Michigan's School of Education, Philip Mack, representing the University of Pittsburg's School of Social Work, and Dr. Allen Callender, representing North Carolina State University's School of Veterinary Medicine, each attended the fair for the 15th consecutive year.

Rod Hipwell, a Campbell University admissions counselor in the College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, has attended the fair for the past four years. He spoke highly of Bennett students on Friday.

"We always find this fair useful," Hipwell said. "We're planting seeds for these young students and letting them know there are opportunities in North Carolina to be active in the healthcare community. The students at Bennett are well-prepared and enthusiastic about us being here. They ask good questions, are articulate and they're always dressed professionally."

Johnson said his office gives students ample notice about the fair and preps them on what to expect.

"We had a great turnout of students today," Johnson said. "At Bennett we believe in quality versus quantity, which is why we have returning institutions from the past three years to come here to meet our students and counsel them on available opportunities. Many of our Bennett Belles have gone on to attend graduate or professional school and have done quite well, and some of them made their initial contact with those schools through experiences like this."

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