heniece Smith has the vision and drive to accomplish her goals while helping others, a character trait that was developed early on. An impactful class project in the sixth grade fired her passion to become a lawyer (Smith acted as an attorney for an innocent man in a classroom mock court project, based on the novel "Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry"). Learning that lawyers can make a difference in underrepresented people’s lives, Sheniece eventually enrolled in the University of La Verne’s College of Law, graduating in May 2012.

In addition to managing a full-time position as associate counsel for Children’s Hospital Orange County (CHOC), Smith has somehow made time to bring affordable legal counsel to people in need. Sheniece’s exuberant drive led to the founding of HOPE through Affordable Legal Services, connecting the gap between pro bono legal services and expensive, full-price attorneys (HOPE stands for Helping Other People Everywhere).

Smith is a true philanthropist, opening the Santa Ana office because she “just felt empowered to do it...I owe it back to society and to my community to do something positive to empower people to take the next step in their lives.” Offering services at 50 percent or more below the market rate brings legal aid to “help those who cannot help themselves.” HOPE provides bankruptcy, expungement, conservatorship and other useful services at rates people can afford.

Entering La Verne Law in the fall of 2009, Sheniece worked full-time as a paralegal for CHOC, and was urged to apply by the hospital’s general counsel, who had seen her potential. She attended class at night and graduated in the top 15 percent of her class. In addition to carrying a full course load, Smith also helped tutor fellow students, acted as an editor for a law journal, and participated in extracurricular activities such as the Black Law Student Association. Sheniece exemplifies the action needed to achieve a goal: “When I have a goal, I just really put that goal in front of me – I just keep going. I worked around the clock to meet all the demands.” All the work necessary to achieve this goal results in the reward; Smith continues to make every effort to ensure the services offered through HOPE pay off for both the organization and the community at large.

Reaching out to other La Verne Law graduates for help, Sheniece would like to train law students and offer internships saying, “Any attorney looking for a way to give back can pick up a case with us any time.” Sheniece’s exemplary vision is making a functional difference in two important ways.

First, giving back to the community by offering affordable legal help positively accentuates most people’s negative view of attorneys. Moreover, putting affordable legal services within reach of people provides real accessibility for people who otherwise couldn’t afford legal help.

It is worth noting the principles centered in Sheniece’s vision are centered in passion (or commitment), motivation, education and service. These principles not only apply to her, but are also applicable for any person with the ambition and drive to make a difference in their personal and professional life. Passion or commitment is usually the prime motivator, leading to acquiring the knowledge necessary to realize their passion, culminating in a service-oriented frame of mind for both the individual and the surrounding community.

These same principles are the motivating force behind all the accelerated programs for adults at the University of La Verne. In fact, the four core tenets are a values orientation, community and diversity, lifelong learning and community service, embedded within Sheniece’s passion, education and service.

For more information, contact the University of La Verne’s Orange County Regional Campus in Irvine at 714.505.1684 or visit laverne.edu/locations/irvine.
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Orange County’s Economic Growth Provides a Bright Future for Prepared Job Seekers
by Kendra Angier, Vice President, University of Phoenix Southern California Campus

More than 3.1 million people call Orange County home and there are ample reasons why. We have an impressive, diverse economic climate, with multiple Fortune 500 companies and a wide range of tourist attractions and professional sporting teams, all of which contribute to a competitive and robust job market. In fact, according to a recent UCLA report, Orange County’s job growth is expected to accelerate through 2015.

The future looks promising for the region. A number of industries including healthcare, technology and tourism are all projected to expand, and specifically, occupations in law, finance and architecture will be in high demand. As Orange County’s economic climate continues to steadily improve, and employers are offering high-paying jobs, the county’s population will also grow significantly, creating a new boom in the housing market.

It’s encouraging news for the region that the economic outlook is positive, and that new job opportunities will be abundant. However, this also means that competition in the job market will increase, and many job seekers are looking positive, and that new job opportunities will be abundant. However, this also means that competition in the job market will increase, and many job seekers are looking for tips on how they can successfully stand out to hiring employers.

Today’s marketplace is global and hyper-connected, and employers are looking for candidates who have specialized skill sets, professional experience and a relevant education. In today’s economy, 3.7 million jobs nationwide are unfilled due to a lack of skilled workers. While Orange County’s economy is more robust than those in the state, the lack of skilled workers can be a drag on our economic growth. It is no surprise that in our global economy, employers demand a strong skill set as a top priority when hiring. Now, more than ever, is the time for job seekers to ensure they have a strong portfolio, and pursue the relevant training and an education that these new jobs will require.

Professional opportunities will be available, but job seekers need to be prepared. I would encourage individuals looking for jobs in these emerging industries to evaluate their work experience and education. Do you possess the right experience and credentials? Are you familiar with new technology? Do you have a strong skill set and the proper training to compete with your peers? If you lack the educational requirements or training, going back to school for a degree or a certificate could give you the competitive edge you need to be successful in today’s global economy.

Returning to school is a big investment. It requires time, money and persistence. It also provides a great benefit in preparing candidates to transition their skills from the classroom to the workplace. Before making the investment in additional training or a higher education, it’s important to conduct your research about what schools and programs might be the best fit. Does your job provide you the flexibility to attend classes on-campus or will you need to pursue a program online? What degree will be most beneficial to your career, and how long will the program take? These are important questions to consider before choosing a school and a degree program.

At University of Phoenix®, we are committed to providing rigorous degree and certificate programs, and a learning environment that supports working adults. Our students have the benefit of learning from faculty members who have both real-world and academic experience, so you can use what you learn in the classroom the next day at work.

In Southern California, University of Phoenix provides students with 11 locations to pursue their degree programs, or students may choose to study online. In the growing fields of healthcare and technology, University of Phoenix offers a variety of programs. The University’s College of Health Sciences and Nursing programs include everything from healthcare administration to nursing, and helps students develop the skills to improve patient care, learn about emerging medical technologies and healthcare reform. In the field of technology, the University’s College of Information Systems and Technology helps students attain valuable skills that will expand their knowledge in the various aspects of information technology.

Orange County is known for its innovation and leadership, which has spurred its economic growth. It’s a tremendous place to live and work, and in order to continue this great legacy for our future generations the region needs highly qualified candidates that possess real-world skills and experience. The future is bright, and with the right people employed throughout the region we can successfully grow not only healthcare and technology, but other emerging industries as well.

For more information, please contact Campus Vice President Kendra Angier at 714.338.1710 or kendra.angier@phoenix.edu.

Hospitality Institute of California
Better careers through higher standards

The hospitality industry is always in a state of flux with workers who are constantly on the move. The sheer vastness of the jobs, places and opportunities is inviting for hospitality professionals that seek new challenges and environments. However, most of these transitions are parallel and offer no advancement, only more of the same.

Need for Homegrown Talent
Homegrown talent is not only a good idea, but a growing imperative! Focusing on local talent helps hospitality companies to both meet their short-term talent needs, as well as better position themselves to attract superior talent over the long-term. The immense growth and multitude of opportunities in hospitality companies require them to promote talent quickly, both to meet expanding leadership needs and to enhance employee retention in a very competitive labor market.

Why Service Standards Are Important
It is not only important to set service standards that uphold the values of the organization, but even more vital that staff perform to these standards and understand why the standards exist! Having service standards assists management in the establishment and monitoring of processes in the establishment. These processes can be in the areas of guest service, guest relations, procurement, food safety, cleaning, planning and control. When setting quality standards, it is important they are both accurate and systematic and reflective of the human side of the enterprise – they need to be personal! These standards are used by customers to compare a restaurant/hotel/spa/club with similar establishments externally and internally, and they can be applied as the basis for performance and productivity of employees. To summarize, the value of well-trained staff to an establishment is worth its “weight in gold!” If all the million plus eating and drinking places in the United States profess to be in the hospitality business, why do so few stand out for actually being hospitable?

The Hospitality Institute of California provides the training and education students need to succeed in this constantly expanding industry – positioning them for better jobs and career advancement. We offer accredited and focused training programs, as well as help both students and graduates find job opportunities in the hospitality industry.

For a class summary and information on tuition and certificates offered please visit www.hi-oc.com.

For more information, please contact Campus Vice President Kendra Angier at 714.338.1710 or kendra.angier@phoenix.edu.

Kendra Angier
Potential is easy to recognize.
Every year, top universities see it in our graduates.

Highly selective colleges and universities have been taking note of Sage Hill School graduates for years. From the sciences, humanities and the arts, to athletics and co-curricular activities, Sage Hill School provides a welcoming atmosphere with opportunities to engage and grow. It’s an environment for learning that ensures our students stand out.

The majority of faculty members who teach our rigorous, four-year program for grades 9–12 hold Master’s degrees from acclaimed schools. An average of just 15 students per class enables our faculty to provide the personal attention that inspires students to excel. And one college counselor for every 38 students helps our graduates choose the colleges that fit them best.

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A Sage Hill School education can be an extraordinarily rewarding investment in the future. We invite parents and prospective students applying to grades 9–12 to visit our Fall Open House on October 12 to see for themselves.
As the fifth largest b-school in the nation, Mihaylo College of Business and Economics at Cal State Fullerton provides a world-class business education. The college’s strong interaction with the Southern California business community provides a unique real-world experience while gaining the knowledge and skills to advance your career.

Mihaylo College features nationally recognized faculty, award-winning students, forward-looking curriculum and flexible programs which attract talented and diverse students from around the globe. Mihaylo is one of five schools in California and one of only 179 schools worldwide holding the prestigious dual accreditation in business administration and accounting from AACSB, the international accrediting body for business schools. In addition, Mihaylo College is recognized annually by The Princeton Review as one of the “Best Business Schools,” and by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top Part-Time MBA Programs.

Add to that the significantly higher rate of return for a Mihaylo MBA versus that of most private and public institutions, along with our unmatched alumni base in Southern California—and you’ve got an unbeatable choice: Mihaylo. “Earning my MBA from Mihaylo gave me the opportunity for success in my career; it was the best investment of my life,” says Greg Waller ’78 MBA. Waller is a board member at Endoloix Inc. and the CFO of Ulthera Corp.

Mihaylo and Orange County: An Economic Marriage and Powerhouse Combination

Mihaylo fuels the economic and corporate success of Orange County and Southern California. Through its educational programs, the College instills its vast corps of graduates with strong core business knowledge, critical thinking skills and motivation, thereby putting them in position to contribute to the success of area businesses. The College’s impact is far-reaching because it serves as a thought leader contributing to the economic progress of Southern California. Even with the focus clearly on Southern California, the reach and impact is felt worldwide. Mihaylo graduates work across the country and internationally, and with over 40,000 grads living in Southern California, this advantage really does make Mihaylo College of Business and Economics the dominant driving force of business in our region.

Southern California: The Region in the World

In business, place matters, especially when you are talking about impact and position. Being a force in Southern California is markedly different than “owning” the Texas panhandle or the Great Lakes region. Southern California is one of the most vibrant and diverse business communities in the United States. It is a gateway to the Pacific Rim and a global nexus for business. Being a major force in this region coupled with the largest alumni base of any Southern California business school is an advantage few can match.

The MBA and Other Graduate Curriculum at Mihaylo

Mihaylo offers both full-time and part-time MBA programs. The full-time program features the innovative Mihaylo Leadership Academy with its 7-2-7 semester format and includes an international trip within the fee structure. Those students with significant professional experience gravitate to the Fully-Employed MBA (FEMBA) Program offered at the CSUF Irvine campus. The accelerated, cohort-based program creates an immediate professional network and all courses are scheduled to accommodate working professionals. Rochelle Reiter ’00 MBA, partner and vice president of business development for Orange Label Art + Advertising, agrees, “The Irvine campus FEMBA program fit my schedule and provided one-on-one interaction with industry-savvy professors.” At the Fullerton campus, the flexible evening program provides another option for graduate degree seekers. It offers 13 different areas of concentration and can be done either full- or part-time in the evening.

Other master’s options include the Master’s in Accountancy, Master’s in Taxation, Master’s in Information Sciences, Master’s in Economics and the Master’s in Information Technology (online) which is ranked #5 in the nation and #1 in California for online graduate business programs by U.S. News & World Report.

The 33-45 unit curriculum challenges and develops students through case method, team building, integrated curriculum and working with area businesses. It gives a broad, strategic managerial perspective, balancing theory with practical application, and strengthens leadership skills. The program gives students a comprehensive, world-class education which students tailor specifically to their professional goals with 10 foundational/interdisciplinary courses and a four-course concentration. The 13 Flexible MBA concentration options are: accounting, business analytics, economics, entrepreneurship, finance, general, information systems, international business, management, decision sciences, marketing, organizational leadership, and risk management and insurance. The program culminates with the Business Strategy Capstone where students consult for area businesses. Mihaylo students have placed in the top ten for the last 19 years in the Small Business Institute national competition.

Mihaylo Hall and the World-Class Resources at CSUF

Mihaylo Hall opened August 2008 with state-of-the-art classrooms, technology, computer labs, study areas and meeting rooms. The 195,000-square-foot building is home to all faculty, students and 14 Centers of Excellence. These Centers are faculty-led and engage in advanced research, consulting with area businesses and business development activities. The dynamic learning environment utilizes specifically designed classrooms to develop the leadership, teamwork and technological competence the business community demands. Students have numerous study rooms for team projects along with dedicated areas for student organizations, the honors program and the graduate program.

The Strength of a Mihaylo MBA: The Faculty and Students

More than 140 full-time faculty create strength through diversity in education, experience and cultural backgrounds. Mihaylo faculty work in the real world, not in the ivory tower, and prepare students for the global marketplace. They do this by integrating the classroom with the best business practices, technology, award-winning research, functional applications and real world experience. At Mihaylo, teaching and research go together. All graduate courses are taught by highly qualified faculty who’ve proven themselves as researchers and instructors, as well as in industry. This attracts students from across the globe, which creates a dynamic classroom experience where students learn from both peers and professors. A challenging curriculum, team projects and intense field experiences give our students a competitive edge.

Pursuing a Mihaylo MBA

The secret about the strength of the Mihaylo MBA is out. Admissions are competitive and prospective students are encouraged to attend one of the regularly scheduled information sessions and apply early. Take the next step in your career; earn an MBA from Mihaylo.

For more information on Mihaylo MBA programs, visit mba.fullerton.edu.

Deanna Shoop

Deanna Shoop serves as the associate director of the MBA and graduate programs, overseeing marketing and recruitment. Her duties include attracting students who reflect Mihaylo College’s high standards from within the region, as well as extending the reach of the college’s world-class graduate programs to out-of-state students and to the global community. Shoop enjoys assisting today’s diverse population of MBA students in finding the program that best meets their personal and professional goals.
The school that opened with a view and a visceral vision has attracted a number of partners along the way who are eager to share the school’s vibrant vista.

When Crean Lutheran High School opened its doors to 95 students in Irvine in 2007, it did so upon the platform of sharing the message of a “school with a view,” with the intention of building a comprehensive, top-tier high school committed to effectively blending a Christian biblical worldview through excellence in education.

Six short years later, Crean Lutheran will open the 2013-14 academic year later this month with approximately 700 students and families who are now enjoying that view, and, in the process, have made CLHS the fifth largest private high school in Orange County, and the fastest-growing Lutheran high school in the nation.

One of the reasons Crean Lutheran has experienced such rapid growth has been the school’s efforts in marshaling strategic educational relationships to augment the school’s talented faculty and staff, 80 percent of whom hold master’s degrees or higher, to maximize academic opportunities for its student body.

Already holding a maximum six-year accreditation term through the Western Association of Schools & Colleges, Crean Lutheran was recently honored as an “Exemplary School” by the National Lutheran School Accreditation Commission for its contribution to best practices in education in the area of community partner development.

Crean Lutheran Receives National Recognition for Best Practices in Education

The large-school opportunities available at CLHS are replete with over 40 Advanced Placement and Early College courses.

The large-school opportunities available at CLHS are replete with over 40 Advanced Placement and Early College courses.  

AT VANGUARD UNIVERSITY, WE’VE GOT THE PERFECT MIX — UNBEATABLE ACADEMIC TRAINING, WORLD-CLASS ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMS, A BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS AND A STRONG SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION.

We believe learning goes beyond the classroom and happens in the context of relationships with faculty and other students. Our professors serve as mentors inside and outside the classroom, giving students the knowledge they need and the wisdom to apply it in the real world.

Visit vanguard.edu and see why at Vanguard University, we go beyond the classroom, beyond scholarship, beyond the expected.

At Vanguard, your story matters.
At Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, we’ve got the perfect mix – unbeatable academic training, world-class arts and entertainment programs, a beautiful campus and a strong spiritual foundation. Our alums are executives at Disney, Nike and Buck Knives (including CEO Chuck Buck), to name just a few.

"Vanguard was an important part of helping us start Wahoo's Fish Taco," says Vanguard alum Ed Lee '87, co-founder and CEO of Wahoo's Fish Taco. "The theories and work ethic I learned in the financing and marketing courses helped us, and the professors were instrumental. Unlike at a bigger school, Vanguard gives you a one-on-one experience."

Small class sizes and professors who care make the difference at Vanguard. We believe learning goes beyond the classroom and happens in the context of relationships with faculty and other students. Our professors serve as mentors inside and outside the classroom, giving students the knowledge they need and the wisdom to apply it in the real world.

Vanguard's faculty is simply outstanding. Our professors advise U.S. presidents, win national theater awards, pioneer scientific research in China, perform at Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood Bowl, and much more. Seventy percent of our professors hold doctorates in their field from some of the most prestigious universities in the world. Those same professors teach every course and mentor students at Vanguard. No one gets lost in the back of a lecture hall, and at Vanguard, graduate students never teach our classes.

For 90 years, this personalized approach has yielded a distinguished list of alums – leading scientists, best-selling authors, network television producers, high-level military leaders and world-changing business leaders.

"I fell in love with Vanguard," says Kristina Kuzmic-Crocco '01, host of Kristina's Fearless Kitchen on the Oprah Winfrey Network. "My time there helped me become more confident being in front of people, and I made lifelong friends."

Larry Mantle, founder and host of AirTalk on NPR affiliate KPCC, and winner of multiple Golden Mic awards, says his experience at Vanguard shaped his life and career.

"I love Vanguard," says Mantle. "I have such positive feelings about the university. It's a very important part of my life. The professors had a profound impact on me. I wouldn't be the person I am without my years at Vanguard."

With more than 50 majors and concentrations to choose from, Vanguard University has a path for everyone. Best-selling author and brain scan pioneer Dr. Daniel Amen '78 says his undergraduate education at Vanguard put him on course to become a leader in the medical profession.

"I really love Vanguard. My whole experience there was wonderful," says Amen. "I had incredibly good teachers and got a terrific education."

Two thousand miles away in Washington, D.C., Nathan Gonzales says Vanguard helped launch him into his career as a nationally-known political analyst. Gonzales is the political editor of the Rothenberg Political Report, which gives in-depth analysis of congressional, senatorial and gubernatorial races across the country. He is frequently quoted in the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times and USA Today, and has appeared on Fox News Channel, CNN and more.

"At Vanguard, I discovered that there is more to learning than sitting in a classroom," says Gonzales, who discovered his passion for politics when he spent a semester as an intern at the White House press office in the West Wing.

No matter the area of study, Vanguard gives students the understanding they need to think critically, communicate clearly and interact intelligently – taking them places they never thought possible.

Visit vanguard.edu and see why at Vanguard University, we go beyond the classroom, beyond scholarship, beyond the expected. At Vanguard, your story matters.

Vanguard University is located at 55 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, 92626. Call 714.556.3610 for more information.
Moving Your Career Forward
by Ron Davis, CCPE Marketing Communications

You’ve been thinking lately about how best to move your life and career forward. But where should you start? The rapidly changing Southern California economy has stimulated businesses, organizations and individuals to re-think their current position and future direction. There are many diverse educational options for today’s working professional, particularly in Southern California with its abundance of community colleges, state universities and private institutions. The Internet has added yet another accessible dimension to education. Consequently, when considering continuing one’s education, today’s toughest choice is more likely to be “where and how” rather than “should I or shouldn’t I.” The College of Continuing and Professional Education (CCPE) at California State University, Long Beach offers several routes to help you get to where you want to be:

Certificate Programs
Maybe you want a career change or to gain broader knowledge in your current field. If so, certificate programs provide an opportunity to meet peers, develop skills in a specific professional area, and show your competence to current or prospective employers. CCPE gives you options with more than 50 certificate programs and three professional designations to choose from, including programs in healthcare, computer technical skills, project management, global logistics and more.

University Credit Programs
You might have a desire to go back to school for a degree. CCPE offers both non-credit professional development education and university credit programs (accelerated MBA, Summer Sessions, Winter Session, Open University, degree completion, etc.).

CCPE’s capabilities extend internationally, providing the global community with access to quality educational programs and services. Some programs can be offered at a company’s work site. For more information about these educational opportunities go to www.ccpe.csulb.edu/OCBJ or contact CCPE’s Student Services Center at 800.963.2250.
Webster University's Business Degrees Are Accredited by ACBSP!

Our name has represented quality, integrity, affordability and professional education for more than 97 years. In the heart of Irvine's Spectrum Area, Webster University, offers innovative business degree and counseling degree programs that expressly meet the needs of busy working professionals. The Irvine Campus, established in 1979, offers several master’s degree program options: the Master Business Administration (MBA), The M.A. in Management and Leadership, the M.A. in Human Resources Management and the “dual major” M.A. in Human Resources and Management/Leadership and the Master of Arts in Counseling with MFCC. Additionally, we offer the B.A. degree completion program in Management.

At Webster University you will enjoy a top education at affordable tuition. Webster University is ranked in the top tier of “America’s Best Colleges” by U.S. News & World Report (2013 Edition).

Webster University’s Business Degrees Are Accredited by ACBSP!

Webster University, a private, nonprofit university was founded in 1915 and has been continuously accredited since 1925. In 2008, the University’s regional accreditation was reaffirmed with commendations for 10 years, the maximum time awarded. Additionally, ALL business degree programs are accredited by Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). The ACBSP accreditation team named Webster “Best in Class” for outcomes assessment. The latter confirms our commitment to academic quality and student learning. Additionally, our students are eligible for invitation to Delta Mu Delta, the international honor society in business administration.

All graduate and undergraduate courses are offered weekday evenings (from 6 pm - 10 pm) in an accelerated (9) nine-week format, allowing degree completion at an accelerated pace. New terms begin in January, March, May, August and October each year – so you can begin your Webster degree at a convenient time.

Finally, 11 graduate degree programs, including: the MBA, MA-Human Resources, MA-Management/Leadership, MA-Teaching, MA-Public Relations; as well as three certificate programs – government contracting, decision support systems, web services/development are completely online coursework programs for the busy traveler. You can complete your degree program completely online or in-class or combine the two options for most Webster degree programs.

Call Webster University at 949.450.9066 for a personalized consultation or visit our website at www.webster.edu/irvine. We are conveniently located just off the I-5 or I-405 freeway, near the Irvine Spectrum at 32 Discovery, Suite 250, Irvine, CA 92618.