

## **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Political Science Career Day: FUTURE FORWARD!**

**November 14, 2013 Student Union Room 214 Time: 8AM-9PM**

### **Panel Discussions and Presenters:**

#### **8AM-8:45 AM Dr. Elaine Blair, Director of Career Counseling NEIU**

“Specific Steps Essential for Successful Career Development”

#### **9-9:45 Political Theory Education: Career Opportunities and Critical Applications of Political Theory in Employment Choices**

**Presenters:** **Professor Sophia Mihic**(NEIU) Leading expert in Political Theory;  
**Professor Stephen Engelman** , Leading expert in Political Theory (UIC);**Mr. Desmond Jagmohan**, (NEIU Alumnus) PH.D. Candidate in political theory at Cornell University

#### **10-10 :45 Political Science Alumni Exploring Their Success in the Private Sector**

**Presenters:****Ms. Eloise Karlatiras** (NEIU Alumnus) President and CEO of the Green Chicago Restaurant Coalition; **Mr. Eric Rojas**, (NEIU Alumnus) Real Estate Broker with Kale Reality and Prudential Rubloff Properties; **Mr.Hicham Zerhouni** ,(NEIU Alumnus) Principal of TransCultures LLC.

#### **11-12 Noon Political Science Education and Careers in the Real World of Politics**

**Presenters:** **Dr. Suleyma Perez** (NEIU), Executive Director of Government Relations for NEIU; **Mr.Courtney C. Nottage**, Counsel at Hinshaw and Culbertson, LLP, former Chief of Staff to former Illinois State Senate President Emile Jones; leading expert in Illinois state politics; **Commissioner Cynthia Santos** (NEIU Alumnus) Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and expert on municipal government affairs and water policy; **Mr. Jeff Hudson**, (Alumnus,NEIU)State Government Affairs Specialist in the Division of Government

Affairs at the American Academy of Pediatrics. He received his Master's degree in political science with a concentration in American politics and public affairs.

**12-15: 1:25 KEYNOTE SPEAKER, Mr. David Yepsen, Director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale**

**Director Yepsen** is Nationally acclaimed as the leading expert on Iowa politics and presidential caucus campaigns; Chief Political writer, political editor, and political columnist for the Des Moines Register; TV and Radio analyst on presidential campaigns and national and state political trends. Director Yepsen will address his career journey as the first member of his family to go to college and graduate school as well as the importance of public administration education, political communications and statistical data skills as critical skill sets in career development.

**1 35- 2: 25 Political Science Education and Careers in Diplomacy and the United Nations**

**Presenters:** **Dr. Daisaku Higashi**, Minister Counselor at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations; **Professor Sangmin Bae** (NEIU), Leading expert on international politics and human rights issues; **Professor Martyn DeBruyn** (NEIU), Leading expert on European Politics, European Union; International and Comparative Politics.

**2:30- 3:30 Political Science Education and Careers in National Security**

**Presenters:** **Mr. Jason Sanford**, MPS-HLS, MPH, Supervisory CDC Investigator, City of Chicago Department of Health; expert in disaster/terror management and urban response to threats; **Ms. Christine Johnson** (Alumnus NEIU), combat veteran and nurse with two tours in Iraq and one in Qatar as a trauma medic. Currently completing her Master's degree in Political Science and Foreign affairs at NEIU where she focused on Homeland Security, Disaster Administration, and Terror Response Public Policy. She is currently applying to George Washington University where she hopes to continue her expertise by integrating her military and nursing careers to become an expert in catastrophic disaster and terror management; **Ms. Jaidalyn rand Ousley (MSPH)** (NEIU Alumnus) City of Chicago

Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Preparedness. She received her B.A. in Political Science from NEIU and her Masters degree in Public Health from Meharry Medical College. Her career focuses on developing and implementing emergency preparedness programs for Chicago; **Professor Ellen Cannon** (NEIU) Professor of Political Science and Co-coordinator of Political Science Career Day. Dr. Cannon is an expert in Disaster and Terror Management. She will address career options at federal national security agencies dealing with terrorism and major catastrophic events.

### **3: 45-4 30 Political Science Education and Career Options in Law and Legal Practices.**

**Presenters: Professor Gregory Neddenriep** (NEIU),(J.D. Ph.D.) is an accomplished legal scholar and political science professor. He is an expert in constitutional law, legal issues and the political process, and political communications. He will discuss the state of legal careers in 2013 and career options other than working at law firms; **Ms. Brenda Nieves**, (NEIU Alumnus) graduated with a B.A. in Political Science and has started law school at Valparaiso Law School in Indiana. She will discuss how political science education at NEIU impacted her decision and ability to successfully apply for law school; **Mr. Michael Baier** (NEIU Alumnus) completed his B.A. in political science at NEIU. He served as a Sergeant in the US Marine Corp. Currently he is at the John Marshall Law School where he has a top 1% GPA and is a law school clerk at Peterson, Johnson, and Murray, a law firm with national rankings in Medical Malpractice defense.

### **4:35 Pm-5: 30PM Political Science Education and Careers in International Relations**

**Presenters: Maria Alexandra Todor**, (NEIU Alumnus) Consular Office at General Consulate of Romania in Chicago; is currently completing her Master's degree in Political Science at NEIU. Ms. Tudor will discuss the skill sets she developed to build a career in international affairs; **Mr. Bernard Brennan** (NEIU Alumnus) completed both his B.A. and M.A. in political science at NEIU and graduated with honors. He served nearly 10 years in the U.S. Marine Corps and is highly decorated. Currently, he is a Political Science Teaching Assistant at the University

of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He has received a full scholarship in political science to study Comparative and International Affairs with a focus on Europe; **Professor Marshall Thompson** (NEIU), Professor of Political Science with an expertise in African politics, political economics, representative institutions, party and party systems. His field work includes extensive research in Ethiopia and Kenya. Dr. Thompson will discuss career opportunities in international affairs, with a specific focus on Africa.

### **5:35 PM-6:35PM Political Science Education and Careers in Urban Planning**

**Presenters:** **Mr. Randy Deshazo**, Masters of Urban Planning. His positions in economic development projects include: Senior Policy Analyst in Chicago economic development projects; Long Range and Economic Development at Indian River County Housing Authority; Senior Policy Analyst at Illinois Department of Transportation; **Mr. Kyle Terry** (NEIU Alumnus) is a Research Assistant at the Metropolitan Planning Council. He was accepted into UIC's Masters Program in Urban Planning, Public Administration and Public Affairs; **Ms. Rona Heifetz**, Director of Advancement at the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at UIC. Her successful career has been in the nonprofit sector where her expertise involved her developing direct service programs, programmatic and development work, and start-up funding for mid-sized organizations. Ms. Heifetz will discuss opportunities and tools students need to create individual roadmaps to success.

### **7-8PM Keynote Address , Ms. Maria Hadden, Project Coordinator at Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP) in Chicago (Masters in Science in International Public Management)**

The PBP project is a non-profit organization that helps communities to decide how to spend public money. Its mission is to empower community members to make informed democratic and fair decisions about public spending and revenue. It pursues this goal by working with governments and organizations to develop participatory budgeting processes in which local people directly decide how to spend part of a public budget. Ms. Hadden will examine the role of political science education, especially in the fields of public finance, public budgeting,

decision making, urban politics, community development and community mobilization, in promoting more democratic and transparent urban communities. She will explain how the PBP in Chicago utilizes political science education in growing new urban political realities.

**8-9 PM Political Science Faculty Round Table Discussion: Trends in Political Science Careers and how the NEIU Political Science Department is Future Forward in our Commitment to our students.**

**Presenters: Professors, Jeffrey Hill, Chairman of Political Science Department; Professors William Adler, Sangmin Bae, Russell Benjamin, Ellen Cannon, Martyn DeBruyn, David Leaman, Sophia Mihic, Gregory Neddenriep, Marshall Thompson**