

THE MENTORING SWITCHBOARD



March 2009

Marching into Spring

Mentoring Connections is a program that matches skilled immigrants with local professionals. However, that is not all that we do. Whether it's celebrating with one of our partners, attending professional conferences, or organizing events for our clients; we like to stay active and develop the different facets of our program.

AFCA-BC's First Annual Induction Ball Dinner & Dance

As partners of the Association of Filipino Canadian Accountants (AFCA-BC), *Mentoring Connections* attended AFCA-BC's First Annual Induction Ball Dinner and Dance on February 21st at St. Patrick's Parish Hall. AFCA-BC is a non-profit organization that promotes personal and professional development among its members, and our new partnership matches skilled immigrants with experienced AFCA-BC professionals in mentoring relationships.

At the Induction Ball, 2009 President Cecil Sanchez, Past President Thelma Siglos, Director Angelo Siglos, and Mentorship Program Coordinator Rosemarie Diamzon warmly welcomed *Mentoring Connections* representatives, introducing them to friends and colleagues who showed great interest in the program. Many thanks to AFCA-BC for inviting us to this well-organized, fun, and successful event!

Career Development Conference

The Career Development Conference brings together individuals in the career management and career development field. Each member of the *Mentoring Connections* team attended several presentations at the conference organized by the Career Management Association of BC. A highlight for the *Mentoring Connections* program at the conference was the presentation by Program Manager Laurie Sing.

Laurie has 15 years of experience implementing employment programs and providing skills training, career planning, job search, and mentoring services. Her presentation "Helping Immigrants Find Work – Basics & Best Practices" introduced new employment and settlement workers to culturally-related employment counselling concepts. Occasionally, Laurie also offers a workshop to *Mentoring Connections* volunteers who want to know more about how to support their mentees in finding jobs. If you are interested in participating, just email or call our office for more information.

Mock Interview Workshop

On Saturday March 21st, *Mentoring Connections* organized a Mock Interview Workshop for our clients who wish to find work in the field of architecture or construction. Six clients were registered for 30-minute sessions with a volunteer who has experience as a recruiter in these fields. The six individuals were asked to send a copy of



Mentoring Connections Program Manager Laurie Sing at the Career Development Conference

their resume, a cover letter, and a job posting to relate the mock interview to their field and job targets. The benefit of the workshop stems from the relevance of the mock interviews. Those who attended were able to practice answering questions that they would be asked on real job interviews for their specific industry.

- *Mentoring Connections*

Why we do what we do

When I arrived in Canada as a skilled worker with all the proper credentials and documents to be a teacher, I thought that things would be much easier. I was mistaken. I had to take survival jobs and I didn't know how to connect with my colleagues and learn about my profession in Canada. I felt very discouraged. However, when I heard about ISSofBC's *Mentoring Connections* program, it was like a light at the end of the tunnel. They introduced me to a colleague with many years of experience in the field who is generously giving his time to help me understand the system and get back in my career. Now I don't feel so lost anymore, and I believe that with time I will work in my profession again.

- *Teacher, Mentee*

Upcoming Events

1st Immigrant Professionals Conference in BC

Saturday March 28th, 9:30am to 4:30pm
Holiday Inn Express
Metrotown, Burnaby

Learn about the programs and services immigrant serving organizations and government departments are offering. Attend presentations by successful immigrants and learn about strategies that have helped them in their career path.

www.bccitp.net

2009 Multicultural Family Resource Fair

Friday March 27th, 10:30am to 1:30pm
UBC Acadia Park Commonsblock
2707 Tennis Crescent - UBC

Kitsilano Neighbourhood House is working with UBC Acadia Park and University Apartments for the 2009 Multicultural Family Resource Fair. The fair features information on healthcare, childcare, safety, and resources in several languages. There will also be story time, Kids Fun Corner, face painting, and much more.

<http://www.kitshouse.org/family.html>