

Living Wage_Final

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SPEAKERS

Shalimar Lawrence, Carrie Delaney, Thomas Benjamin, Abby Kucbel, Janet Maltbie, Hector Garcia

Janet Maltbie 00:04

From the campus of Lorain County Community College, this is the Career Conversations Podcast. I'm Janet Maltbie. For many students deciding on a college major and knowing if it will give them a living wage when they graduate might be a big unknown.

Carrie Delaney 00:24

I was just trying to get through school and get a four year degree not realizing the degree that I received at the time would not have afforded me a livelihood because of the loans and whatnot that I had.

Janet Maltbie 00:36

Carrie Delaney works with career services at Lorain County Community College, but she remembers a time when getting help wasn't so easy.

Carrie Delaney 00:44

When I was in college, there was no help. I barely graduated because I was a half credit hour short because I didn't have an advisor.

Janet Maltbie 00:53

Today Carrie works as a project coordinator with a team of advisors who help students make wise career choices that include making a living wage. Unfortunately, many students don't think about that until their last semester.

Abby Kucbel 01:06

Yeah, I think they're very narrowly focused in on just trying to pass their classes and I don't think they're even really thinking about next steps even until almost when they're getting ready to graduate.

Janet Maltbie 01:20

That's Abby Kucbel. She works with Carrie Delaney in career services as a career development specialist. Her focus is employment counseling. Abby has a lot of experience helping people get jobs through her previous employer. Ohio Means Jobs.

Abby Kucbel 01:34

From my experience working with job seekers at Ohio Means Jobs and at the college. A lot of people aren't even thinking about living wage. And I think that's a big problem because people aren't even really aware of what income they need to be at to support themselves and their families.

Janet Maltbie 01:52

So what's a living wage? And why is it so important to think about before you graduate.

Thomas Benjamin 01:57

So a living wage is the amount of money you would need in terms of typical expenses in a particular area of the country specific to your household type.

Janet Maltbie 02:07

Thomas Benjamin is the Director of Institutional Research here at Lorain County Community College. He does a lot of research so students can save money, graduate and find jobs with better outcomes. He says a living wage depends on where you live, and your family makeup.

Thomas Benjamin 02:22

So here in Northeast Ohio, in Lorain County, specifically, a single person would need to make \$33,000 to have that sort of typical set of living expenses.

Janet Maltbie 02:32

That's about \$15 per hour. Now, most people who graduate from college expect to make a lot more than \$15 per hour. But it's surprising how few students know exactly how much they can expect to make from a particular career, or what majors will generate the income they need to live on, especially if they hope to raise a family. So where do you find this information? And what can you do to make a wise career choice that gives you a living wage? In this episode, we'll be talking with career professionals that can help you choose a major or find a job based on your interest, values and well, your dreams. We'll also talk about careers that can give you living wage opportunities in Northeast Ohio that you might not know about. But first, let's thank our sponsors. This program has been brought to you by enrollment, financial and Career Services of Lorain County Community College and by the Ohio Department of Higher Education, Ohio Means internships and Co-ops grant.

Janet Maltbie 03:38

Today, going to college is expensive. Many students are wondering if it's worth the time, effort and money it takes to complete a degree, especially if you can earn \$15 an hour at a fast food restaurant or a retail store. This type of work might hold you for a while. But what if your situation changes, and you want to start a family?

Thomas Benjamin 03:56

So if I'm 20 years old, maybe I only have to think about myself right now. But 10 years from then when I'm 30, I may not still live alone, right? I may now have children to take care of and that's what we hope that students will plan for. And so you want to make sure that your career path takes you to the steps you know you'll need in the future.

Janet Maltbie 04:15

Which leads us to step number one, know the difference between a static springboard or lifetime job. Static jobs don't really have much chance for advancement, but springboard and lifetime jobs lead to greater pay and opportunities. So what are the sectors of our economy that we can expect will offer a living wage where it's not they're just static jobs, but they're Springboard jobs.

Thomas Benjamin 04:42

So here in Northeast Ohio, it's healthcare, it's manufacturing and there's also you know, growth in information technology. It here in Northeast Ohio is really embedded in our other industries in healthcare right, the IoT that supports large hospital networks like Cleveland Clinic, MetroHealth and university hospitals right? It is core to our insurance industry here at Progressive who considers themselves a tech company not just an insurance company. And its core to the manufacturing headquarters. We still have here in Northeast Ohio, people who do software development, code cybersecurity are integral to these other industries. And so that is another growing industry embedded within Northeast Ohio that has some of these jobs that meet the living wage of even the largest household compositions.

Janet Maltbie 05:28

So examples of springboard or lifetime jobs in Northeast Ohio are in healthcare, manufacturing, and technology. But what specific jobs might be a good fit for you? His best advice is step number two, do some research and meet with a career professional or academic advisor.

Thomas Benjamin 05:47

Look into these careers. There's a lot of great resources out there, both online and books and as well as people right you can talk to your Career Services staff or your academic advisor and look into some of these careers to know exactly what is the typical salary range and does that match up with what I need for the family composition I have the lifestyle I want and how I may need to get there.

Janet Maltbie 06:12

One place to start is with my plan.com. It's free to Lorain County Community College students. It lets you research job requirements today's wages and employment trends. Plus meeting with a career specialist like Abby Coatesville helps you realize what's out there.

Abby Kucbel 06:27

I've been really trying to educate on all the options instead of just narrowing in on one field in particular, I'm asking them Do you know what this field is about? Do you know what the MEMS field is about? Do you know what this particular IT field is about like web development I was talking to a student about recently,

Janet Maltbie 06:44

Hector Garcia, another career services professional at Lorain County Community College also likes to use a website called ONET online.org. He says it helps students see what they can reasonably expect to make, and the steps they need to take to advance in a career

Hector Garcia 07:00

I use Onet in conjunction with my plan as well. Because once I broke down the two year four year plan of what a type of occupations that the individual can see themselves doing, I would then take them over to own that. And then I would just show them like, look, this is the career pathways, this is what you need to do. This is the high end, this is the medium, this is the low end of the salary that you'd be making.

Janet Maltbie 07:23

Hector says he likes to take a step by step approach because quite frankly, planning for a satisfying career that involves advanced degrees can be overwhelming.

Hector Garcia 07:32

So I just think honestly, if they could see the end result and see what steps they need to take, they may be able to say well, I can handle this step, this step in this step.

Janet Maltbie 07:44

Which leads us to the third step. Make an appointment to see your advisor or a career specialist today through Career Services at Lorain County Community College, what would you say to a student that's listening to this right now? They have no idea what they want to do. What kind of advice would you give them specifically about living wage.

Hector Garcia 08:04

I definitely would encourage the students to come talk to us talk to a career development specialists. You know, utilize our my plan, get some counseling, feedback from us talk about wages, talk about the pathway that you're gonna have to take if you choose this career. And, you know, if I want to make X amount of dollars, this is what I have to do. You know, there are certain steps that individuals have to take in order to make that wage, but I know in my heart I tell my kids, don't do it for the money. Do it because you like it.

Janet Maltbie 08:33

How can you make sure you like it? That brings us to our final step? Do an internship. Test out the waters. Studies show that grads who complete an internship not only are more successful in landing a job, they also start at higher wages than those who don't. Shalimar Lawrence, the Career Services internship specialist says interviewing people in the field is a great way to see if a career is a good fit for you.

Shalimar Lawrence 08:57

I think a good resource for students to kind of figure out if a job or a career is good for them is an informational interview. Where they're able to interview a person that's already in the field or even an

internship because I'm kind of the internship person in that department, so I think internship is a good way for students to figure out if something is good for them, or if maybe they need to learn some additional skills.

Janet Maltbie 09:20

So just to recap, step number one, know the difference between a static Springboard or lifetime job, choose something that can give you a living wage in the long run. And step number two, do your research, use my plan.com or own it online.org And step number three, don't go it alone. Get some help, because all of this information can be overwhelming. Finally, step number four, do an internship. Reach out to career services today by making an appointment to see a career specialist by going to lorainccc.edu/careerservices. This program has been brought to you by Enrollment, Financial and Career Services of Lorain County Community College and by the Ohio Department of Higher Education Ohio Means internships and co ops grant. Music provided by Danosongs production assistance provided by LCCC radio.com. The boom and their staff Dee Gross, Matt Melvin and Tim Bradley. You've been listening to the career conversations podcast on LCCC radio.com The Boom. I'm Janet maltbie. Thanks for listening.