1/26/18

Sherwin-Williams (Vaspar): Industrial Chemistry

Kevin Romagnoli and Kiersten Bendzlowicz

* Why go into industry?
	+ Improve upon and invent new materials people use daily
	+ Competitive pay
	+ Challenging work
	+ Skills gained are transferable
	+ Global jobs
		- Ex: sherwin is in +120 countries/6 continents
	+ Perks of business (free food?!)
* Performance Coating Groups
	+ Everything but house paint
		- Automotive finishes, coil coatings, packaging coatings, protective/marine, wood coatings, industrial coatings, polymer solutions, etc.
* Packaging Coatings
	+ Barely any metal out there that does not have any protective coating on it
		- Drums, Pails, Beverage and food cans, aerosol cans, glass, etc.
* Purpose of Coatings
	+ Protection
		- Protect the product from the package and the package from the product
	+ Production
		- Promotes ease of fabrication
		- Promotes ease of handling sheets/fabricated items
* What to expect at Sherwin-Williams
	+ Different types of chemists!
		- Synthesis
		- Analytical
		- Formulation
	+ Involves more than just the science
		- Regulatory
		- Raw material sources
		- Manufacturing
		- Customer interface
	+ Fluid job- time allocated between
		- Product development
		- Troubleshooting customer issues
		- Troubleshooting manufacturing issues
* Industrial Chem with a BS
	+ Competitive!!!!
		- Large number of graduates and few openings
	+ Cultivate skills and experience to stand out
		- Internships and undergraduate research
		- Interpersonal and “soft skills” IMPORTANT
			* Also critical thinking is important when it comes to selling yourself
			* Have a narrative that you can connect with people on
				+ ENTHUSIASM is KEY
			* Report writing/telling someone what you do- make sure someone without a technical background can understand you
			* Okay to admit you DON’T know something! That’s okay! Don’t lie
			* Focus on what you DO know
	+ Industries hiring large number of chemists:
		- Pharmaceuticals and medical manufacturing
		- Paint, coating, and adhesive manufacturing
		- Environment and material science industries
* Contract Work
	+ 1 in 5 jobs in all industries is contract work
	+ Upside
		- Flexibility and try many different jobs
		- “foot in the door” – most companies will hire contractors they work with
		- determine if company is a good fit for you
		- most staffing agencies offer benefits
	+ Downside
		- Pay is hourly (no paid holidays or sick pay)
		- Minimal or no benefits depending
		- Some employers keep contractors indefinitely
		- Little to no job security
* Job Hunting in Industries
	+ Job posting sites like Indeed, Glassdoor, etc.
	+ Internships
	+ Contract-to-hire positions
	+ Networking
	+ University resources (!!!)
	+ Consider non-traditional paths
		- Forensics
		- Patent law
		- Teaching
		- Regulatory
		- Business
* Qualities of Industrial chem
	+ Plays well with others
	+ Creative
	+ Hard working
	+ Uses brain
	+ Shows initiative