

Take Charge of Your Career Before You Leave College. (C05-breuninger111546-Oral)

Authors:

- J.M.Breuninger - *Dow AgroSciences*
- D.M.Chambers - *Dow AgroSciences*

Abstract:

Successful completion of an agricultural based degree (B.Sc. and above) is only the first requirement for consideration by turf industry employers. Often, employment decisions are based on factors not strictly tied to pure academic accomplishments. In addition to technical skills, non-technical skills often dictate personal and professional effectiveness in employment and are rarely taught or focused upon in school. Therefore it is left to the student to develop the necessary non-technical skills which are transferable to future employment and provide evidence of future success. This paper will explore these skills in an attempt to inform students and university faculty on what they are and what students can do to prepare for industry employment. The key skills are leadership, teamwork, accountability, creativity, communication and flexibility. These skills are strong discriminating factors that employers use in making hiring decisions. Outstanding and demonstrated examples of these non-technical skills that can be accomplished by students will be shared.

Corresponding Author Information:

James Breuninger	phone: 317-337-4343
Dow AgroSciences	fax: 317--337-6081
9330 Zionsville Road	e-mail: jmbreuninger@dow.com
Indianapolis, IN 46268	

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