“VERGE” Jobs of the Future

What is a “VERGE” job? These jobs model the convergence of technology and sustainability of a green environment. This is a new trend in the future job market which will require a big push in job creation.

There are a lot of questions buzzing around the “VERGE” sector. Who will embrace, adopt and apply the innovation? Who will sell these products to municipalities, real estate companies, construction firms and homeowners with existing homes.

Cities are at the center of the of this important nexus for VERGE. They can either purchase the technology or they can adopt policy standards to require only renewable resources of power, zero waste and a robust disaster plan related to extreme weather caused by global warming.

As global warming impacts our country and globally, we will see not only cities but states and countries jump on the bandwagon. This is actually a really exciting time because we are going to see mega changes in how we live, work and see the world in its rush to make a correction in the wake of built up carbon emissions and global warming.

Some of the new jobs of the future will be, for example; city chief sustainability officer, collective impact officer, shared value officer, chief resilience officer, smart city planner, bike share program coordinator, Unmanned aerial (drone) and road-based vehicle operator, telematics software architect, big data analyst, zero waste manager. We could also include hybrid renewable energy engineers, renewable energy systems technology coordinator (solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, hydrokinetic).

These job roles really necessitate integration and collaboration with varying city, county, state and federal departments as well as incorporation of technology to enhance the municipal sustainability practice.

Job growth is really unlimited with the new VERGE sector. In the future we will see more education offered to incorporate the green technology. Keep green energy in your sights for future growth opportunities in jobs and education.

FUNDING REQUIREMENT - REMINDER!

Requirements for Winter/Spring 2015 funding.

- Complete Higher Ed Application.
- Provide proof of enrollment as a Tulalip Tribal member.
- Provide High School Diploma or GED – If you do not have either you must sign a 6 month agreement.
- Running start students must provide a letter from their high school counselor.
- Provide a complete educational program plan of courses for your degree from the college/institution.
- Goal letter—State your academic goals and how you plan to achieve those goals and projected outcomes.
- Must sign the agreement acknowledging receipt and understanding of the Higher Education Policy regarding student responsibilities and probationary status.
- Class schedule.
- Tuition invoice from college/institution.
- Diving or other (physical requirement) certificate program — students must pass a UA and Physical and proper documentation must be provided.
- Room & Board—students must provide a lease agreement and W-9 from landlord and live 30 miles from home.

This documentation must be provided to Higher Ed staff at least two (2) weeks prior to school start date.
10 Rules for Selecting a College, University or Graduate School

1. Never make your final college selection without visiting at least your top two (2) or three (3) choices. No matter how well you think you know a college or university, you can learn a lot (good or bad) by spending a few hours on campus. Having family members accompany you on college visits is a great idea because it gives you extra “eyes and ears” and people with whom you can discuss your impressions.

2. There are no exceptions to rule #1.

3. A college is not necessarily right for you just because its name is familiar. That might seem pretty obvious, but you would be surprised by how many students equate educational quality with name recognition.

4. Investigate at least three (3) or four (4) colleges you know little or nothing about, but offer the field (s) of study of interest to you, are appropriately selective for students with your grades and SAT/ACT scores, and are located in geographic areas attractive to you. You have nothing to lose and you might make a great discovery. A little research and open mind can greatly increase the odds that you make a good college/graduate school choice.

5. There are very few worse reasons to select a college than because your friends are going there. Choosing a college because your girlfriend or boyfriend is headed there is one of them. In fact, if there is a worse reason to choose a college, it escapes us.

6. Investigate, investigate, investigate and be sure to separate reality from (often baseless) opinions. Lots of folks will refer to a college as “good”, “hard to get into”, “a party school”, “too expensive”, etc without really knowing the facts. Don’t accept these kinds of generalizations without evidence.

7. Do not rule out colleges early because of cost. Many colleges offer scholarships, financial aid, and tuition installment plans that make them far more affordable than they may first appear. You can’t/won’t know how much it will cost to attend a college until the very end of the process.

8. Deadlines, whether for college applications, SAT/ACT registration, graduate school admission exams (GRE, GMAT, MCAT or LSAT), financial aid, scholarships, campus housing and tuition installment plans, etc. are not suggestions. Miss a deadline and you may find yourself in deep you-know-what. Write the deadlines down on a calendar and adhere strictly to all deadlines.

9. Don’t be afraid to apply to a few “reach schools”. You might be pleasantly surprised by the results if you are not entirely unrealistic. Then, apply to at least three (3) colleges you like which are highly likely to admit you. Remember, choose these three (3) colleges very carefully as they are the places where you are most likely to wind up. Finally, choose at least two (2) “safety” colleges, Colleges to which you are virtually certain you will be admitted. Choosing “safety” schools you don’t really like is a mistake many students make. If you take the time to choose the right schools, you will eliminate all of the anxiety some students experience in the college application and admissions process.

10. When it is time to make your final choice, discuss your options with your family, your counselor and others who know you well and whose judgment you value. If you have a tough time choosing among the several schools you have been accepted to, it is because you did a good job in your selection process. You will be happy at any of your final choices.

- Continued on Column 2