

46<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

# MERC 2020

## Career Fair



Thursday  
April 23, 2020  
10:00AM – 1:00PM

GEORGE SHERMAN UNION  
BOSTON UNIVERSITY

775 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE  
BOSTON, MA 02215

For more information:  
[merccareerfair.com](http://merccareerfair.com)



MASSACHUSETTS EDUCATIONAL  
RECRUITING CONSORTIUM

The MERC Education Career Fair is an annual premier recruiting event, organized by the Massachusetts Educational Recruiting Consortium, dedicated to facilitating the hiring process in education and related fields. This partnership between higher education and school personnel from across the country produces one of the finest annual recruiting events of its kind. In our 45th year, this event is considered one of the best in show!

The Consortium, made up of representatives from colleges and universities throughout Massachusetts. MERC strives to ensure that employers recognize the diversity of candidates, striving to select the best candidates regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital and parental status, military status, and disability or physical appearance.

**Registration is strongly suggested to create a simpler check in process during the Fair.** Please confirm eligibility requirements and fees PRIOR to registration. Visit [www.merccareerfair.com](http://www.merccareerfair.com) and click 'Candidate Registration' to register.

**Candidate Eligibility:** The fair is open to candidates in education and related fields (administration, school counseling/psychology, occupational therapy, social work, speech language, etc.)

**MERC member candidates:** Candidates from MERC member institutions may attend the event for free.

**Non-member candidates:** Candidates from non-member institutions are permitted to attend as long as they meet the education requirements above. The fee for non-member candidates to attend is \$10.00, cash only, to be paid during check-in.

### **MERC Member Institutions**

A current list of member institutions can be found on [www.merccareerfair.com](http://www.merccareerfair.com)

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Candidates from MERC member institutions may attend the event for free. Candidates from non-member institutions are permitted to attend as long as they meet the education requirements. The fee for non-member candidates to attend is \$10.00, cash only, to be paid during check-in.

To register:

- Go to [www.merccareerfair.com](http://www.merccareerfair.com)
- Click on “Register Here” to register for the fair and obtain information about attending organizations.
- This will guide you to Eventbrite to register for the event.

## SCHEDULE

10:00 am	<i>Career Fair Opens</i>
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	<i>Candidate Registration</i> It is suggested that candidates register prior to arrival. All candidates will be checked in upon arrival. Please arrive no earlier than 10:00 am; candidates will not be allowed into the Fair before 10:00 am. Registration will close at 12:45 pm.
1:00 pm	<i>Career Fair Ends</i>
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	<i>Optional On Site Interviews</i> Optional on-site interviews will be scheduled immediately after the open fair, per recruiter invitation, interviews will take place on site.

## SPECIAL NEEDS REQUESTS

If you are a candidate with special needs, please contact your college/university career center. Requests for accommodations must be received no later than Friday, April 3, 2020.

## DINING OPTIONS

At Boston University, there is an abundance of retail dining options on campus including 25 restaurants and café and a full service market. Inside the George Sherman Union you'll easily have access to 11 restaurants including: Takin' It to the Street, Charles River Bread, Co., Copper Kettle, Cranberry Farms, Easy Goes Take Out, Loose Leafs, Panda Express, Rhett's, Starbucks, Boston University Cheeseology, and Pinkberry.

## PHOTO COPIES

Photocopying is available to the public at the Mugar Memorial Library, next door to the George Sherman Union. You can visit <https://www.bu.edu/library/mugar-memorial/services/photocopy-services/> for pricing and details. There are also various UPS and FedEx copy and print centers in the area.

## REGISTERED ORGANIZATIONS

All registered organizations can be found on the MERC Career Fair website: <http://bit.ly/merc20orgs>

## STRATEGIES FOR A SUCCESSFUL MERC FAIR

**The Fair:** Prior to the fair, register online by visiting <http://bit.ly/merc20register> this will simplify up the check-in process. Utilize the website to develop a prioritized “target list” of schools and conduct research on anticipated job openings. Be aware that the organizations may change at any time prior to or after MERC. Once you arrive, you will check-in at the candidate registration tables beginning at 10:00am.

**Engaging with Employers:** Employers will utilize different formats for meeting candidates, so follow the lead of each individual employer. Most employers have short conversations, collect resumes, and contact selected candidates at a later date. Some employers will interview candidates at their booth during MERC; districts from outside New England are more likely to conduct on-site interviews. Some employers are not able to take resumes and will direct candidates to their online application system. Connecting with the recruiter at MERC will allow you to ask questions, promote yourself, and use their name in a cover letter. Please be aware that some employers choose to leave after lunch or early afternoon. Therefore, if at all possible, arrive at the fair sometime before lunch so that you have a chance to meet with as many hiring personnel as possible.

**Prepare Your Resume:** Visit your career center in advance of the Fair to create a high quality resume or to have your resume reviewed.

**Determine Which Organizations Interest You:** Give some thought to the type of organization and community you prefer. Consider geographical location, district size, community makeup, type of classroom setting and educational philosophy. Geographic flexibility yields more opportunities. Use MERC to explore other regions.

**Prepare to Answer Questions:** Think about frequently asked questions and how you would answer them. Visit your career center for sample interview questions and to practice your responses. Be prepared to talk about your student teaching experience and other experiences with children and adolescents.

**Know the Licensure/Certification Requirements:** Many states require passing scores on standardized exams or competency tests as part of their certification requirements. Visit states’ Department of Education sites for more info. While you may not need to take the tests before MERC, employers prefer candidates are aware of what certification tests are required for their states.

**Dress Appropriately:** Dress for the fair as you would for any professional situation. Avoid revealing clothing. You will be doing a good amount of walking and standing, so wear comfortable dress shoes. *Appropriate Attire:* Business suit or jacket, dress shirt and tie, skirt or dress slacks and polished shoes.

**Don’t Sign Contracts:** No matter how good a particular job may sound to you, it is not a good idea to sign a contract on the spot. If you are interested in a district, discuss the possibility of a site visit. Note: A letter of intent is different than a contract.

**Follow Up:** Be sure you get the information you need to follow up with organizations in which you are interested. Find out what to expect regarding the next step in the hiring process, and ask for the recruiter’s business card. Send a thank you email or card within 24 hours of your initial meeting.