**Zhong Yisheng: Selflessly Help Students Find Jobs**

(Xinmin Evening News Journalist Zuo Yan Correspondent Chen Yan) During this sprint period of fresh graduates’ job hunting, Zhong Yisheng, retired teacher of Shanghai Lixin University of Commerce, is much busier than students. All his four mobile phones rang one after another. “I have so much phone calls, text messages and WeChat messages that my mobile phones are out of power early every day.” Zhong Yisheng jokingly said that after his retirement in 2007, offering advices on students’ employment became his second career. He is busier than real estate agents during the recruiting season.

**He is proficient in guiding students’ employment**

In 1986, Zhong Yisheng became the deputy dean of the original audit department of Lixin and took in charge students’ affairs. Since then, Zhong began to offer advices on students’ employment and establish connections with the accounting industry. “The 1980’s and the 1990’s witnessed the good employment situation when employers lined up to recruit graduating students. Normally, a male graduate who signed a contract with an employer could bring two female graduates into the unit as well. All students could be employed before graduation.” Zhong Yisheng sighed with emotion over the present serious employment situation which forced students to promote themselves outside the university.

Experiencing such changes urged Zhong to reflect on how to improve his recommendations to students. After having communicated with several employers, he has formed a train of thought. “Accounting firms can be divided into several categories. The firms with large scale and great reputation appeal to everyone. I’ll recommend student cadres with outstanding performance and strong entrepreneur spirit to such firms, thus strengthening the reputation of the university and creating conditions for the employment of subsequent students.” As to accounting firms in the medium range of the industry, Zhong will recommend students with moderate performance. As to some small accounting firms and bookkeeping agencies, he will recommend some diligent and hard-working students. Zhong is a careful man, so he knows well about the performance, personality and capability of every student whom he has contacted before.

Zhong also has a “blacklist” in mind. For example, a branch office of an accounting firm in Shanghai used to recruit a number of fresh graduates for several times and then fired them one by one with various reasons in several months. When Zhong knew that Gao, one of his students, was going to work for it, he told Gao frankly that “you have to carefully twice before joining in such a unit.”

**Pay a return visit on a regular basis as a “mentor”**

After students got jobs with his recommendations, Zhong often pays return visits to them as a mentor. Hu worked for an accounting firm as an intern since he was a junior student, but when he was about to graduate, it is a labor dispatching company rather than the accounting firm that signed a tripartite agreement with him. Zhong Yisheng showed up to coordinate with the firm and university. With his unremitting efforts, Hu finally signed another tripartite agreement and labor contract.

Once, Zhong received a call from an accounting firm and was asked to “take someone back”. It turned out that Fei, a student he recommended to the firm, failed to pass the department examination due to his personality and other reasons. “I had poor performance, so they fired me!” Hearing Fei’s answer, Zhong comforted him that “you should overcome your shortcomings”. Afterwards, Zhong recommended him to another accounting firm. However, Fei failed in the regular worker examination again. A manager from the firm said that “Fei performed not as well as his junior schoolmate, who joined in our company later.” Zhong visited the manager and apologized at the very day. “This kid has his shortcomings. However, he was an average student among his fellow graduates, while the girl you mentioned was a top student in her class. Besides, girls and boys have different personalities. It is not fair that you compare them this way.” After that, Zhong helped Fei analyze the cause and offered correcting suggestions. Then, Zhong frequently called Fei to know his working conditions. Through continuous adjustments and changes, Fei has made great improvements and now is able to undertake assigned task independently.

 At present, over 60 accounting firms in Shanghai have students recommended by Zhong Yisheng to work for them. Some units may even add remarks “Introduced by Mr. Zhong” to students’ resumes. Sometimes, such remarks are better than a pile of certificates.

**“I’ll quit when I cannot walk”**

Zhong spends about 300 to 400 Yuan on mobile phone charges every month, but he never ask any remuneration from either students or employers. Sometimes, he has to work deep into the night to schedule students’ internship programs. “I’d like to help these kids find proper jobs with my resources. I never expect any remuneration from them,” said Zhong with a smile. Although he loses half of his hair and often suffers from physical problems, he keeps running around among job fairs, accounting firms, and universities. Besides, he also helps students majoring in finance and economics of other universities find jobs and carries out free lectures on employment. In recent years, even universities from Suzhou and Zhejiang contacted him.

In fact, Zhong Yisheng once considered finding a “successor”. “I don’t collect money. I cannot increase the burden on students and employers or expect any remuneration from student. I just want to help them.” Last year, a private university intended to cooperate with Zhong Yisheng and tried to recommend students for employment. However, due to the high operation cost, it had to collect charges from students. Finally, the cooperated ended. As a member from this university put it, “Zhong Yisheng’s work is so hard that common people cannot hold on to it.”

(Originally published on Xinmin Evening News, Feb. 26, 2016)

Link to news: <http://xww.sfu.edu.cn/rw/47221.htm>