

Just Graduated, Still Searching - A Message to Young Employment Hopefuls

Washington, DC (06//08//10) -- Last week's unemployment numbers have shown new signs of life in the job market. For the graduating class of 2010, they couldn't have come at a better time.

"Entry level and middle manager positions were most affected by last year's job cuts," said careers expert and author on the subject, Carolyn Thompson, "and many companies that laid people off over the last 18 months are beginning to hire again - especially for these types of positions."

Now is the time for new grads to use all available means to approach companies with their interest and make their qualifications known. Young professionals who have entered the "real world," but have yet to actually break into the workforce, should keep the following tips in mind when searching for that first job:

- 1) Start with reasonable expectations:** Even as an accomplished student with a head full of knowledge and a degree, you have to start somewhere -- chances are, it's going to be near the bottom. Remember: Your first job is meant to get your foot in the door. Do some research and figure out what "entry level" means in your industry. Understand the requirements, responsibilities and compensation. Setting reasonable expectations upfront will pay off as your job search progresses.
- 2) Temporary is OK:** For entry level candidates in particular, temporary jobs often lead to permanent positions. Before investing in you and your development, companies want to see that you have what it takes, not just hear about it in during an interview. If a great organization offers you a temporary position, consider it.
- 3) Network!:** Eighty percent of jobs found today are the direct result of networking and utilizing personal connections. Ask your parents, your friends' parents and all of their friends for help. You will be surprised at how willing these personal connections are to help a young person and how quickly a small network can expand. Be sure to have a printed business card on-hand at all times so that you can professionally connect with people you meet in social settings.
- 4) Develop a job search strategy (and stick to it):** Every successful strategy starts with strong research. Identify the industries and companies that interest you. Read through their websites, blogs and profiles on social networking websites. Perform online news searches and set up google alerts. By familiarizing yourself with the facts, you can better prioritize your time and energy, create stronger action plans and make more informed decisions.
- 5) Going back to school is not the only option:** The job market can tough, sure -- but that doesn't mean you need to go back to school. Job availability is expected to climb over the next few years, and depending on your specific interests, it may already be on an upswing. Moreover, jobs and promotions don't automatically go to the one with the highest degree. In many cases, practical work experience within a specific industry is equally important to employers.

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About:

Carolyn Thompson is a 20-year veteran of the executive recruitment industry and the author of three books on career development. In the past year, Carolyn's job-hunting advice has appeared in stories by CNNMoney.com, MSNBC.com, The Wall Street Journal's: Laid Off And Looking Blog, The Washington Post, NPR's The Diane Rehm Show, and others.

For more information on job search tips, setting goals and more, visit Carolyn's website:
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