

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

Washington -- After several months of general deliberation on the impact of a constricting US job market on new grads entering the workforce this year, the graduating class of May, 2009 has finally arrived.

Carolyn Thompson, author of TEN STEPS TO FINDING THE PERFECT JOB and president of CMCS, a DC-based executive search firm, has a few pieces of advice to offer young professionals who have now entered the "real world," but have yet to break into the workforce.

1) Even as an accomplished student poised to enter the workforce with a head full of knowledge and an impressive degree to your name, you will likely need to start at the bottom and work your way up.

Establish your expectations, map out a progression schedule and absorb information relentlessly -- with enough determination, you'll reach your goals quickly.

2) To those thinking more education is the only answer, think again! Yes -- Job availability is expected to climb over the next few years and weathering the storm in grad school may sound like the perfect solution, but securing a job and earning additional promotions is not simply about what level of degree you hold. In many cases, practical work experience within a specific industry is equally important to employers. Consider finding a great entry-level position with an organization that offers tuition reimbursement.

Developing a healthy balance of education and experience is the most strategic and effective way to optimize your value to current and potential employers.

3) NETWORK! Currently, 80% of all jobs found today are a result of networking and utilizing personal connections. Ask your parents, your friends' parents and all of their friends for help -- You'll be surprised at how willing these personal connections are to help a young person and how quickly a small network can expand.

Remember to be patient, stay positive and make your Facebook and other social networking pages look professional too!

4) Develop a job search strategy and follow it! Create a specific plan based on solid market, industry and company research and prioritize your time and energy. Be creative and reach out to meet people that work for your ideal employer -- contact these people, ask for advice -- they can refer you internally as jobs open up.

For the highly ambitious job-seeking grads - If you have a chance to volunteer at an event sponsored by these companies, take it. Use the occasion as a foot-in-the-door moment to introduce yourself to everyone involved.

"Remember," says DC's Leading Careers Expert, "Regardless of your preferred industry or ideal employer, positions will open up and opportunities will present themselves -- be patient, diligent and strategic."

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