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Why is Networking So Important?

Jobipedia.org Experts Offer Networking Advice to Students and Job Seekers

Washington, D.C. – One of the topics that appears to create the most anxiety among early career job seekers and students seeking advice from America's top recruiting and hiring professionals on jobipedia.org is **networking**. Questions submitted and answered on the site include: Why is networking so important? How can I begin networking if I lack family or professional connections? How can I network without appearing to aggressive or irritating people?

Jobipedia.org is a free career advice website where hiring officials from America's leading employers answer questions submitted by first time job seekers. The website is hosted by the HR Policy Foundation and was created to help new entrants into the workforce successfully gain employment and keep jobs by receiving insight and advice from recruiters at America's largest companies. Anyone can submit a question about interviewing, resumes, professional conduct and other facets of the working world.

Hiring professionals contributing to jobipedia.org believe that networking is an important step in a job search and they encourage all job seekers and students to maintain a strong network of professionals throughout their working life to help them find a job, support their career and potentially even lead them to other, better professional opportunities.

A jobipedia.org expert from Cardinal Health suggests, "Getting involved in campus student groups, professional trade associations and volunteer organizations is a fantastic way to meet people with similar interests as well as build your network. Once you get involved, you'll likely meet someone who knows someone else who has a role that is just what you are interested in pursuing."

To make the most out of the groups and networking events, it is important to follow up, said a recruiter and jobipedia.org contributor from AT&T. "Often, the key to networking isn't that you will connect with the person directly who may hire you, but connect with other people who will network for you! When you meet [a professional contact] state that you are looking for a job, and simply ask permission to follow up with them to send them your resume or connect via LinkedIn and ask them to keep you in mind if they know of anyone who is hiring in your area. Many people who network never actually follow up after getting a business card. By sending the thank you email, making the phone call to re-introduce yourself and asking to meet someone for coffee, you are already one step ahead."

If you do have the opportunity to meet for coffee, lunch or a follow up discussion with a contact, jobipedia.org experts suggest that you pay for the coffee or meal and that you do some research on their organization before meeting. A jobipedia.org contributor from HCA Inc. suggests, "Think about this as information gathering, and then you do not have to feel too pushy or like you are being misleading. Use this as an opportunity to ask them questions about their ideal candidate and how your experience might be an asset to the organization. This often leaves a great impression on your contact because you are being intentional and displaying yourself as a professional who knows what they want."

For additional advice from company experts on networking, career fairs, resume writing, tips on interviewing and more, visit www.jobipedia.org.

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With over 675 questions received and nearly 2,600 answers given, **jobipedia.org** brings together career service professionals and top tier recruiters to help entry level jobseekers and recent graduates get hired and succeed in the first stages of their professional careers. Jobipedia.org is a free, reliable online resource where candidates can ask questions and quickly receive the most honest, useful and timely information from hiring experts at some of America's largest companies, all members of the HR Policy Foundation.

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