



Networking - It's All About Who You Know

Millions of Americans log onto job finding sites such as monster.com or hot jobs in hope of finding their next dream job. Unfortunately they are missing out on many jobs that may never be posted. Some of the best jobs come from word of mouth. Having the best resume, the most experience, or the prettiest smile means nothing if the recruiter never get the chance to see it. Many job postings see hundreds of applicants. The odds of having a resume selected for an interview can be very slim. Having an inside edge or someone who can put a good word in is always beneficial and may mean the difference between getting a job quickly or looking for several months to several years. Over 70% of all jobs are found through networking, according to the Federal Bureau of Labor. Networking is the best way to make contacts and get your name out there.

There are several ways to become more active in networking. Friends and family are the easiest part of your network. Current and former coworkers are also good contacts for networking in your field. Joining professional associations is another excellent way to may career specific contacts. Volunteering can be an excellent method of networking. Even past relationships can provide networking support. Internet message boards or social networking sites such as myspace.com can be some of the best and easiest ways to network with other people.

One important thing in networking is to keep contact with people. Your old coworker will do you no good if you have no idea how to find him. Using email or phone is a good way to stay in touch with old friends and acquaintances to keep your network alive. It is a bad idea to only network when job hunting. People are less likely to help you if you only contact them when you need something. It is also a good idea to offer help to other people who may need it. After all, networking has to go both ways to be successful.

There are a few basic things to keep in mind when networking. Never call a person by their first name without their permission. Always have business cards on hand in case you run into someone unexpectedly. Don't be shy and introverted. Engaging people with a sparkling personality will help them remember you more. Finding a mentor can help guide your career and teach you about things you may not have considered. Sending thank you notes to people in

your network who have helped you out will make you stand out to contacts. Always keep networking even after you have found your dream job. You never know when the perfect job will become the nightmare job. Nowadays layoffs and mergers are more common and unpredictable than they were in the past. You never know when you might find yourself in the market for a new job. Networking is the way of the future. As the saying goes, "It's not about what you know, but who you know".

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Your Independent guide to [<http://networking-guided.com/>]Networking

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