

Veterans Newsletter Feb/Mar 2010

Technology, Networking both have job hunt role **By Tim Walmer**

How do you job hunt in the era of Facebook, online resumes and YahooHotjobs? Has everything changed since the days of type written cover letters and coat and tie interviews? Yes and no.

Internet – It seems like a no brainer to begin a job search on the internet. After all, one can quickly access openings and post resumes. One day of responding to online job postings can provide applicants a feeling of productivity, like they are really making some headway in their search. But are they ? Experts say it would be a mistake to rely solely on the internet when looking for a job. Many openings are never posted. Also, there are thousands of openings on online job boards and thousands of people going for those same jobs. There are two online strategies. You can send out as many resumes as possible, or you can apply only for the jobs you are qualified for and interested in, taking the time to send a cover letter. Applicants may find they get as many or more interviews honing their online search, rather than applying indiscriminately. Having a Facebook page, LinkedIn membership and resumes on Yahoo!Hotjobs, is key. They should not be a substitute for the work of making calls and meeting people.

Networking – Experts say getting your name into key hiring circles is still the best way to land that dream job. Tried and true methods include joining professional organizations in your field, keeping in close contact with former bosses, colleagues and professors, and following up with a friendly phone call or email after exchanging business cards. Make a point of introducing yourself at social gatherings, such as parties and weddings. But, don't make the mistake of asking contacts for a job.

Resume – Have two versions of a resume, one that is more general with common key words, to be used for job fairs, networking and to quickly post online, and another that is razor sharp. The second resume is full of key words for specific openings. Many companies today use scanning programs that assign a score to resumes based on key words matching a job opening. The basic building blocks still apply, up to date contact information, relevant experience, specific skills, professional awards, and accomplishments, and education.

Interview – Remember during the interview process that it's not all about you. Especially in today's economic climate, interviewers admire applicants who show they understand the big picture. In other words, how can you help the company's bottom line? Exhibiting enthusiasm for the company and the available position are characteristics interviewers appreciate. Dressing and communicating appropriately, arriving on time and being positive are musts. Don't give employers a reason not to consider you.

Other items of interest :

Determining VA Loan Eligibility

In order to be considered for the VA home loan program, a borrower must meet military service requirements. The eligibility requirements vary depending on when the military service was completed, but can be summarized by 90 days of active duty during wartime, 181 days of continuous active duty during peacetime, or 6 years of service for Reservist/National Guard.

New TRICARE Handbook Available

The new TRICARE Standard and Extra handbook is now available to all TRICARE beneficiaries. The 68 page handbook includes information on accessing routine, urgent and emergency care, as well as TRICARE's prior authorization and referral requirements. The TRICARE Standard Handbook : Your Guide to Using TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra is available now at www.Tricare.mil.

We are here for you !

The U.S. Department of Labor and the Jefferson County Workforce Center place great emphasis on service to veterans. Especially to recently separated veterans and to those with a service connected disability or some other barrier to employment. If you feel you have a situation that is limiting your job search, please call the Veteran Employment Representative at 303 271-4728 or email David Alred at dalred@jeffco.us. He is located at the Laramie Bldg, 3500 Illinois Street, Golden, Co. Mr. Alred also offices at the Mountain Resource Center in Conifer the first and third Mondays of each month. To make an appointment to see him at the Mountain Resource Center, call 303 838-7552.

Also to assist you is the Jefferson County Veteran Services Officer. He assists veterans/dependents with filing claims for pensions, compensation, health care, burial, education, home loan certification, life insurance, and other issues. His name is Mr. Henry Mondragon and he can be reached at 303 271-4205 or by email at hmondrag@co.jefferson.co.us. He is located at the Human Services Bldg., 900 Jefferson County Parkway, suite 170. His office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8am to 5pm.