

Veterans' Newsletter January 2010

Network, Find “Action Person” For Hiring Success By Laura Beal

Advertise your job loss. It is essential that the right people know you are seeking a job. Too often people are embarrassed to tell anyone about their job loss, this secrecy will not provide any job leads.

The minute you lose your job or decide you want to change jobs, start telling everyone you know that you are looking. Begin with friends, family and neighbors. Talk to former co-workers and even casual business acquaintances. Share your plight with people at your house of worship; join new social groups, professional associations and volunteer organizations to expand your circle of potential contacts.

Meet with new people every day. Whether it is an official interview, an informational interview or just meeting over lunch with a friend who has extensive contacts in a variety of industries, it is critical to meet face to face with people in your network frequently, if not daily.

Email has made staying in touch with contacts faster and easier, but face to face remains the most powerful and effective way to communicate your skills, experience and qualifications, as well, as to obtain the most useful help from your contact.

Begin making phone calls to arrange interviews. In each call your goal is to contact an “action person”, someone who can see you and then offer you a job.

Contact the firm’s hiring authority, not HR. Human Resources employees rarely make the final hiring decision, unless the job is in that department. The heads of the various departments determine when new people are needed, so it is critical to get their names. If you want to work in sales, then get the name of the head of sales. Simply call the company and avoid saying that the call is about a job or else face transfer to human resources.

Seek interviews when others are not. The key to obtaining an interview often is having the flexibility to fit into the interviewer’s schedule. Since you are meeting with a manager, chances are the person is very busy with several projects, in addition to hiring someone. Let the interviewer know that you are willing to meet before or after hours, on the weekends or at a location other than the office.

Do not take a holiday from interviewing. Many job seekers take a vacation from the job search during the holidays, figuring that no one is hiring. This is a mistake that can be use to the diligent job seeker’s advantage. The fact is that employers are hiring all of the time. If there is a need for workers, it does not matter if it is Christmas.

And, while it is true that some managers are on vacation, there are going to be many others who are working throughout the holidays.
Job seekers who keep up their interviewing schedule during the holidays, or even try to increase their activity, will likely be rewarded with several interviews.

Other items of interest :

Do you know your VA Benefits ?

The Dept. of VA launched a national survey of veterans, active duty members, activated National Guard and reserve members, and family members and survivors to learn if they are aware of VA services. The national survey will also collect important health care, benefits, employment, and demographic information that VA will use to inform policy decisions and improve benefits. VA expects approximately 10,000 veterans to complete the full length survey. The data collection is expected to be finished by the end of February and the final report released by December 2010.

VA Loan Guaranty Program

Despite problems in the nation's housing market mortgage loans backed by the Dept. of the VA had a lower foreclosure rate than any other type of home loan in the industry. The program makes home ownership more affordable for veterans, active duty, and some surviving spouses by protecting lenders from loss if the borrower fails to repay the loan. To obtain more information about the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program, call the VA at 1-877-827-3702 or visit the VA Loan Guaranty Service website.

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, 8 am to 5pm.