

All Is Not Lost!

Starting Your Career During a Recession: Best Practices For Your Job Search

AfterSchool Career Workshops

www.succeedafterschool.com

1. **Look broadly.** Don't limit yourself to job openings posted online. Be a detective!
2. **Audit your network.** Create a database of all contacts you can leverage in your search. Add everyone you've ever spoken with, heard of or looked at. Otherwise you'll never know who you ever knew.
3. **Draft and practice your description** of what you're going to communicate to others: What you're looking for and what you have to offer. Practice with a friend until they're sick of listening to you.
4. **Focus on the positive** in all of your communications and networking conversations. Nobody likes a downer.
5. **Organize your search.** Set weekly objectives and stick to them. Keep track of all of your outgoing and incoming search-related communication. Even that voicemail you sneezed during.
6. **Show up.** Take note of job fairs and networking events sponsored by alumni associations and professional organizations. Go to at least two or three each month. Sometimes just being present will tip your hand.
7. **Be easy to find.** Make sure your professional information is updated and profiles are complete in all social media. Have a local phone number and professional email address and voicemail message. No employer wants to email princesskatie@yahoo.com
8. **Polish your online image.** Eliminate photos and information that will not help you in your search and add recommendations and internships. And tell your friends to lay off too.

9. **Take advantage of all possible informational interviews.** They are never a waste of time. They're great practice and you may meet someone who will want you to keep in touch. It's a bit less pressure and when you're less nauseous you tend to do better.

10. **Be willing to start at the bottom.** Internships or support roles are ideal ways to get started in an organization that can end up providing a genuine career opportunity. Be willing to take on the jobs that no one wants; offering to help stuff 1000 mailers can keep you in the room with a potential employer for a long, long time.

11. **Don't panic.** If you don't find a job in your chosen field right away, don't freak out. If you work in another type of job for a while keep your contacts active by staying connected to professional organizations and being of service to them. And if anyone asks about your little "detour" proudly say you value different experiences and it will only help you have a broader understanding of the working world. Let 'em try and fault you for that, especially because it's completely true.

AfterSchool Career Workshops are targeted job search seminars for college seniors and recent graduates. We go beyond the resume and focus on the critical tools and techniques that make the difference between a successful job search and, well, one that's not. Visit our website at www.succeedafterschool.com for more information and a schedule of upcoming sessions.

Kathryn Lorenzen, CBC
Principal/Career Development Coach
Kathryn@SucceedAfterSchool.com
816-868-4240

Lisa Correu
Principal/Job Search Advocate
Lisa@SucceedAfterSchool.com
816-510-4188