



***Employment Treasure Chest-NAS JAX Fleet and Family Support Center Event  
Jacksonville, FL - May 20, 2010***



Top Left: Kate Midden presenting, MSCCN; Top Right: Lisa Blevins presenting, MSCCN  
Middle Left: Rich Brown, NAS JAX FFSC; Middle Right: MSCCN applicants networking  
Bottom Left: MSCCN applicants networking; Bottom Right: MSCCN Applicants having lunch

## **Overview**

On May 20, MSCCN and the Fleet and Family Support Center hosted an all day job search workshop at the River Cove Conference Center on NAS JAX. We had 35 people participate and the event was a great success. We spent the day talking about ways to make your job search more effective. We focused on networking, staying organized, and tried to make the event as interactive as possible so that the participants could meet each other and share resources.

## **Summary**

We started the day with a brief introduction of MSCCN and our services as well as sharing information about the Fleet and Family Support Center and Worksource.

Guest participants:

Rich Brown, Work and Family Life Consultant, NAS JAX Fleet and Family Support Center

Patty Piazza, Spouse Employment Advocate, Worksource

We also had the participants introduce themselves and share their background and job search goals. This exercise highlighted how uncomfortable many of the participants were talking about themselves which is why we spent so much of the day focusing on interactive networking exercises.

Our first topic of the day was Organizing Your Job Search. We highlighted the need of job seekers to ensure they have a plan in place with a specific goal to achieve. We also talked about developing a balanced group of key activities and creating a written schedule. We recommended that the group get organized by developing a job search binder to keep their information easily accessible. The participants were especially motivated by the idea of being organized helping to motivate their search.

The next part of the workshop focused on networking. We broke the participants into pairs and gave them specific questions to discuss with each other during timed rounds. This was the most energetic part of the day and the most beneficial for creating the connections that we focused on all day. We made the questions increasingly difficult and gave guidance on how to share a story effectively about a success or achievement. We also emphasized that networking should be a daily part of your life. The response was overwhelming that we had taken the mystery out of networking and that the participants realized that it could be easy and fun. Many of the attendees made some great contacts and developed ideas for new networking opportunities.

Our final topic focused on sharing top tips for a job search. We shared advice that we have gathered and the attendees shared their advice as well. We also introduced the concept of Just One Thing. We recommended that the attendees continue to go to events with the purpose of learning one new thing each time that could help them.

## **Conclusion**

The biggest success of the workshop was the high level of interaction between the participants. Many of them were able to help each other by sharing contacts and advice. They also shared their stories and frustrations with each other. The most meaningful message that everyone seemed to leave with was the fact they weren't alone. Many people shared that they had felt alone in their frustration and difficulty during their search. Having a network of people who understand those frustrations and can help is important so we will be starting a regular job club to keep the group connected and moving forward.

The feedback from the event was wonderful and there was a high demand for more workshops. We will be hosting an event with the Mayport Fleet and Family Support Center in October and are planning many other area events in the meantime.

## **Lessons Learned**

We held the event at the base Officer's Club and the staff was extremely helpful, well organized, and showed a great attention to detail. We did a dry run at the site the day before to check layout and audio / video connections. This was especially valuable since we found out our room had been changed. The day of the event another group was allowed to use the other half of our room during the afternoon which was very distracting. We learned in the future to be prepared and to ask how the facility would deal with these situations.

We also learned the importance of marketing. We advertised with a wide range of service and recommend using a system like Eventbrite to keep track of reservations. Even with our successful marketing there were a number of participants who did not attend and it might be beneficial to send a reminder confirmation.

## **Feedback**

**Evaluations:** We received 27 evaluations.

What people want to hear about:

Resumes and Cover Letters - IIIIIIIII

Job Club – IIIIIII

Websites – III

Interviewing – II

Job leads, staffing agencies, tips on organizing your home, resume writing for stay at home moms, portable careers, how to keep from being negative or desperate

How people heard about the workshop:

Command / Spouse – IIIIIIIIIII

FFSC – IIIIIII

Navy College – I

Ombudsman – II

Orange Park Mall Event – III

UNF – I

*Sample Comments:*

*Lisa and Kate were very down to earth and personable. I cannot believe this was Lisa's first presentation of this!*

*"Real" information. Lisa and Kate delivered the information in such a way that took the intimidation out of the process. They shared personal experiences which helped the audience realize they aren't alone or the only person having negative feelings or experiences. It was a great workshop and Lisa and Kate were open to ideas. They also were current – kudos, keep it current.*

*Lisa did a great job – awesome ideas and had the perfect personality for presenting her experiences and ideas – Good Job MSCCN!*

*It was awesome!*

*Networking – it was easier than I thought.*

*It's never too late to get a degree and for a military spouse – it's my career time after caring for a household for so many years! Thanks to this I just e-mailed my husband my plan.*

*Lisa and Kate made this workshop fun and interesting and engaging!*

*The Plan, Schedule, and Organization presentation was very helpful and I will definitely make changes.*

*The networking activities, when the class was paired up in discussions, helped me tremendously. I received a lot of encouragement and advice.*

*I liked how the workshop was interactive and great points and ideas were given on organization. Very interactive. Lots of new and useful information. Great idea of building a job search binder.*

**E-mail Feedback:**

*Mrs. Cullum & CMC,*

*I just wanted to let you know I attended this event yesterday and it was fantastic! Apparently it was the first time MSCCN put this together, and I really cannot say enough great things about it!*

*The next time this non-profit organization does something, I highly encourage everyone to attend!*

*Sincerely,  
LT Samantha Lester*

*Hi Ms. Blevins,*

*Just wanted to thank you for the employment treasure chest workshop, I really appreciate it and I'm already seeing a difference in my job search. I would love to attend a workshop for writing resumes.*

*Sherrilyn Lewis-Young*

*Ms. Lisa,*

*Thank you for your E-mail and it was great a class last time I have never had it before. That class was really help me but I also had to see reality of state side economy now. I almost passed out at there when I talk with everyone who has US citizenship still can not find a job for a long time. I am Japanese ( hope you remember me ) and I have a Green Card holder. My window is very, very small to compare to other people. I honestly tell you that I have no idea what to do now to get a job. But I learn a lot of skills at class and I already share with my husband( will retire two years) and my kids (both High School now) I met a one lady who go to Japan for PCS and could give her information about there and Career.*

*I met a wonderful people at there and that is good thing!  
I just want to say THANK YOU and if you can give us more information to get a job to GREEN CARD HOLDER that would be really nice! Thank you so much again!*

*Yumiko C. Green*

*Thank You:*

*My husband, Rudy Guzman (the guy who didn't talk to anyone), and myself, Maria Cervantes (the one who wrote down the ideas) had a lot of fun at your workshop. I really appreciated that you were able to make it a fun experience. So now whenever I go to another workshop they have a high bar to reach! We learned very important things and I absolutely loved the binder idea. Again thank you very much.*

*Sincerely, Maria Cervantes*

*Good Morning Lisa,*

*Thank you for providing great information at the Employment Treasure Chest this past Thursday. It was very informational and encouraging. (I was the one sitting in front)*

*Since the conference I have re-written my resume for a personnel specialist position both at NAS Jax and in Mayport with some of the guidelines that you recommended on Thursday...*

*Thank you again for the great conference, the information and the great lunch!*

*Haley Olson*

*Hi Lisa,*

*We met at your class yesterday. I'm Jenn Castellani - the green shirt girl who does Help Desk Support and rocks at organization and time management. I wanted to thank you for the outstanding class you and Kate gave. I've been to couple of job search/resume classes and yours was by far the most fun (and most helpful!) one I've been to. The class not only gave me hope about my job search, but you totally motivated me. I also met some wonderful people yesterday who have offered their help and advice about my move this winter to Japan and for those connections alone I am incredibly grateful. I'm planning a lunch potluck for next month so we can continue to support each other through our job search. If I can get interest in the potluck, would you be interested in joining us? Also do you have Kate's e-mail? I'd like to invite her too but I can't seem to find her e-mail address...*

*Thanks again for the class. I know you mentioned it was your first class, but you did an excellent job! :)*

*Take care, Jenn*

*Hey Lisa!*

*Thanks for letting me participate in the event today, and for getting me on base. I seriously couldn't tell that you have not done anything like that before today till you said so. You are like my Fiancé, she sells herself short sometimes. You did GREAT! You girls were a trip*

today. These events are nice to go to, and it was good advice to give everyone, "even if you have gone to one of these, keep going to them." Well that wasn't verbatim but it's the jist. Networking is key, it's not what you know, but who you know. I think that a lot of those ladies are scared to put themselves on the line now. They were so intimidated to tell us who they were, and this was a great exercise to push them along. Now the only problem lies with them, to keep that confidence and go out and have a good time doing this informal networking. I wouldn't not be where I am today if I wasn't as ... hmmm, well me. Thank you again for having me and letting me use your specialties as another tool for my networking.

Had a blast, David

Lisa,

Fantastic event today! It is exciting to be a part of your first big initiative in your new line of work, and I know you'll continue to have great success with these workshops and whatever other ideas you can come up with!

Everything about today felt like it was a part of some major traveling workshop company, I never would have guessed that you came up with all of that yourself, and that it was the first time delivering this information! Even down to the details of the powerpoints and the handouts. I hate it when you go to something and the powerpoint layout is just one of the canned templates from the program, instead, yours was one you obviously spent time on to make it look neat and professional. You never just read the slides, and your handouts weren't just miniatures of the slides (as so many lectures do!), I loved that you provided even more info in the handout, and that it was in paragraph form, and you didn't waste space by doing the "handout" view for printing from powerpoint!

Thank you for taking the time to share all your experiences with us, it was extremely eye-opening to me as I start this, my very first, job hunt!

Keep up the great work, and thank you for helping us!

Sincerely, Sam Lester

Hello Lisa,

I attended the Employment Workshop today and found the material to be very useful. I didn't do much to make myself stand out except to add that I have found Temp Agencies to be very useful as a resource to find employment. I sat on Lesley's left. :-)

I have never attended a workshop of any sort but I enjoyed myself very much. I thought you were very knowledgeable on the subject and you do very well to make everyone feel comfortable.

I myself am an introvert and find it VERY difficult to open myself up to people. As I stated in my intro, I've been here almost 4 years and in that time I have met a few people although it would be untruthful to say I have made many friends outside of work. When my husband is deployed,

*as he is now, it is just the kids and I. I have no family here and no one I can call when I need help. I am sure the reason I don't have many friends and no one I can call for help when needed is because I'm not outgoing enough to network. I have never been too far away from family so I have to admit these past 3 1/2 years have been the most difficult for me. What I learned today is it's not hard at all to network, to meet people, to make friends. I just have to get passed the initial "hello" and my fear that people won't like me.*

*But back on subject, you are a great public speaker and given the opportunity to attend another workshop given by you, I would most definitely attend.*

*I am currently employed and I have no problem trying to help you or Kate with current job openings to relay to prospects so feel free to email or call me any time.*

*Thanks again! Tricia Frasier*

*Hello Lisa,*

*I really enjoyed your presentation. It was smart, fun, and you offered great techniques to help us organize our job search efforts.*

*What you did very well is get people involved, engaged, and excite to be there! I really enjoyed the networking exercisers.*

*I had to leave to pick up my daughter from school, so I didn't say goodbye, and I didn't have a chance to look at your job search book, which, is of great interest to me.*

*In the future, I would love to create and deliver instruction to a group. I love to brain storm and if you ever want to chat about future projects email me or call me. I would love to help with that!*

*I'm researching what jobs will be prevalent in the future and I found this interesting article. I appreciate that the writer states people are not job description but a portfolio of knowledge. He also talks about that employees need to evolve and create ways that they can add value to their companies.*

<http://insidework.net/resources/articles/the-top-ten-jobs-of-2015-dont-exist-today>

*Well, I have to go....cooking dinner 😊 I plan on keeping in touch with you. I'm really proud of what you did for us! (created a program from your efforts to help us, is truly innovative)*

*Thank you, Milly Eminger*

*Hello Kate,*

*I attended the Employment workshop today and I wanted to say thank you for the useful information. I was the person that sat to your left at lunch. :)*

*You are great at bringing people out and making them laugh. I must say within the first 10 mins of listening to you talk I was out of breath due to your animation and your ability to make people laugh. I felt very at ease even though I'm a VERY shy person. When I say shy, I mean SHY.*

*Here is some background information about myself. I work full time at EverBank, M-F (near the intersection of Philips & JTB) and I leave a little before 5 to get to Mayport in time to get my kids out of extended day. We have very little family time during the week as we are doing homework, reading, cleaning house, getting dinner ready but on the weekends we just relax and enjoy ourselves either by going to the beach, the park, movie or miniature golf. When my husband deploys, as he is now, it's just me and the kids. I mentioned in my thank you email to Lisa that I have no family here and I have a very few friends but no one who I can call for help if I need it so the past 3 1/2 years have been the worst time in 12 years he's been in the navy. I've found a couple of babysitters that I always paid a little extra but neither girl seemed to work out so I haven't found luck in that area either. The workshop has helped me over the barrier that it's not hard to make friends by simply networking so I'd like to thank you and Lisa from the bottom of my heart for helping me see it's not as hard to open up as I thought.*

*I currently work full time at EverBank and I have no problems letting you and Lisa know when we have openings to pass along to any future prospects.*

*Thanks again for such a great workshop!*

*Tricia*