

Virtual Training: How to Make the Most of a Job Fair

Don't Hand Out Your Resume!

MSCCN hosted a virtual training seminar on August 18, 2010, in preparation for a variety of upcoming regional job fairs. This time we focused on how to prepare for and be effective at a job fair. We had people participate from all over the country and tried to make the training informative and interactive.

We discussed how to prepare, the approach, and how to follow up. You should treat the experience like a series of mini interviews and that means preparing accordingly. You should research the companies ahead of time, dress for an interview, and prepare your introduction and specific work achievements.

Most of the applicants at a job fair rush from booth to booth handing out resumes and asking companies if they are hiring. We focused on the importance of making a connection. You need to take your time to relax, decide what you want to get out of each encounter, and then make a memorable impression on the person with whom you speak. We were able to practice introductions and answer a wide variety of questions from our participants. Finally we emphasized the importance of follow up. It is important to try to maintain that connection by staying in contact. We recommended sending links to interesting articles or your blog. One of our participants will be starting his own blog sharing his expertise in the retail garment industry and advice on "dressing the part".

To RSVP for future virtual training seminars please visit our website or www.msccn.eventbrite.com

Comments:

"I was apprehensive about the format since it was the first time that I have participated in a virtual event. However, I felt extremely comfortable with it, and this is coming from a person that does not like to talk on the phone. Between your delivery, and the fact that I was comfortable at home, what a difference it made!"

"Love Webinars, so convenient."

"As for the content, you really did a fantastic job of researching the subject and the fact that you were quite energetic about it was a fantastic addition."

"You covered everything that was to be covered; don't think you could have done any better. However, that opens the door to the next one."

"Your knowledge and presentation were great - kept control of side topics so we didn't get too far off track. "



"Content was good - discussion with everyone added lots. "

What did you learn?

"Job Fair is a mini-interview."

"Make a connection"

"You should take control"

"Take your time"

"Most beneficial, start my own blog."

"Now I know the importance of attending job fairs, since you do not know who is going to be there. One thing for sure, they are not going to come knocking on the door looking for you. The part about doing the research prior to going is another fantastic suggestion. Summarizing, be ready do your homework!!"