

DON'T LET THE HOLIDAYS SLOW DOWN YOUR JOB SEARCH
*Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance Offers Tips for Job Search Strategies During the
Holiday Season*

Tampa (November 20, 2009) -- The holiday season usually offers time for thoughts about family and future as we celebrate festive occasions or begin a new year. For people who are unemployed or are concerned about company downsizing, the season can be filled with great uncertainty. Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance can be a resource even in this tough economy.

“It’s important to us that career candidates know Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance is available to assist them in continuing their job search efforts year round,” said Thomas Stewart, vice president of Workforce Solutions. “Our centers in Tampa, Brandon and Plant City provide a full range of career planning services for professional and entry level career candidates, including career guidance, job leads and training resources.”

The following are some guidelines to help job candidates in their search activities.

1. ***Some businesses hire part-time to fill positions created by holiday vacations or to meet year-end demand from customers.*** Part-time work is better than no work at all. Part-time work adds to your unemployment credits, or counts toward your unemployment benefits bank, and is an excellent way to show your talents to a prospective employer. Because of the complexity of hiring full-time personnel, some companies hire part-time employees to evaluate how a person fits in and meets their expectations.
2. ***Don’t put off applying for full-time work during the holiday season.*** Companies operating on a calendar year budget will make decisions about personnel and there is always turnover – no matter what time of year. Make sure your application and resume are there for employers when they consider hiring new people.

3. ***Take advantage of the season by attending parties or gatherings and networking yourself with people who might know of job openings.*** Many times your best source for job openings is friends and acquaintances with insider knowledge about good jobs currently open or those that companies will post in the future. While it may be difficult to admit being unemployed to friends and family, these people are essential to your personal marketing network. They will keep their eyes open for potential opportunities for you.
4. ***Don't complicate your situation by overspending during the holidays. Try to avoid debt and cut expenses.*** Renew your relationship with family and friends. Many wealthy, successful people look back to tight financial times, when they were forced to focus on friendship, as some of the best, most meaningful moments in their lives.
5. ***Seek help from Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance for job counseling and other resources.*** Use the programs that provide help to meet your basic needs while you explore the services available to you through job training to package or improve your skills to locate a new job. You have access to these services at no cost to you.
6. ***Understand that job loss, unemployment and job seeking are stressful situations. Acknowledge this fact and understand that you are not alone. Many people are experiencing this same situation or have gone through periods of job seeking.*** There is some truth to the statement that the hardest job of all is finding a good job. Avoid bad habits. Get yourself in shape, focus on your health and enjoy the extra time you have to do things for your family. Keep a positive attitude. Today's new education and training opportunity can become tomorrow's job.
7. ***Get organized. Write and design a new resume.*** Customize a few resumes to highlight specific career tracks where you have solid skills. Be methodical about your job search. Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance has excellent resume writing resources and can provide you with helpful tips and suggestions to make sure you are approaching your job search in a professional, effective and efficient manner. Post your resume online. Use our Resource Centers.
8. ***Decrease tension at home. Money issues and employment problems rate highly on the stress scale.*** If you have a friend or family member who is unemployed, be supportive and helpful. Now is not the time to be argumentative or to blame someone or yourself for your situation.

Kindness, sympathy and compassion for people who are going through a temporary period of unemployment will be rewarded when your significant other lands that good job. Sooner than you think people will be complaining about all the time you're spending at work.

9. ***Be positive and be patient. Bringing a positive attitude to your job search and interviews will help you be successful.*** Patience goes a long way too – understand that it takes time for your resume and cover letter to be routed to the appropriate person or department. Be courteous and understanding when you follow up with potential employers – your attitude on the phone may be the deciding factor in getting an interview or job offer. “Thank You’s” go a long way both before and after the interview.
10. ***Use staffing agencies.*** Employers use “contingent workers,” especially during time of economic recovery and uncertainty. Employers often use temporary help agencies as recruitment and screening strategies. These jobs often turn into full time, regular employment and even if they don't, the experience can yield another positive employer recommendation.

About Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance

Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance (TBWA) works with businesses and candidates to leverage their training, retraining and competitive opportunities in the workforce. With nearly 100,000 job candidates annually accessing its three career centers, TBWA is the single largest source of job candidates in the region. Businesses annually access TBWA's wide range of services that include employee recruiting; training; targeted career fairs and hiring events; workshops and business seminars; and retention support strategies. Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance is a member of the Employ Florida statewide network of workforce services and resources.

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Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities TDD/TTY 813-930-7699.