

A MULTI-PRONGED PLAN FOR FINDING A NEW JOB

Summary: Find out how you can conduct an effective job hunt while having little experience in the United States.



Question: I came to the U.S. in 1997 when the technology industry was searching for people all over the world. Just like many others in the industry, I recently lost my job. Since I didn't go to college here and have only worked for one company, I have done almost no networking in the U.S. What is the best approach for an effective job hunt?

Answer: Conduct a multi-pronged approach, combining job-search strategies to maximize your opportunities. Polish your presentation skills and read up on the process to effectively compete for openings.

Networks

We are all part of communities of one sort or another. While you may not have an existing formal job-search network, everyone you know or come in contact with is a potential resource for you because they may know someone or something that will get you closer to securing your next position. Remember, you aren't asking them to get you a job; you are simply seeking information, leads, critiques, and suggestions. Consider all contacts from your previous company, including bosses, colleagues, vendors, customers and professional associations. Then move on to your social circle, along with your ethnic, cultural and religious affiliations. You might consider taking one course at a local college to stay up-to-date on skills, meet new people and tap into college alumni and career resources.

Recruiters

Establish a positive working relationship with a couple of recruiters you respect. Target those you have heard good things about and who specialize in the technology-related types of positions you are seeking.

Listings

Sourcing job postings provides access to a large but limited segment of the market. Take advantage of listings that are posted on company websites, online career sites, and through job fairs. Keep your time allotment in perspective, limiting your time spent on the Internet in favor of more direct contact.

Temporary/Contract Work

If you can get your foot in the door through a contract assignment, you may be able to segue into a permanent position. At the same time, you will make new contacts and build skills. Staying active and involved is a welcome antidote to the blues that inevitably set in as a job search extends.