

Job seekers SHINE at the New Year, New Career job fair

By Shannon Miller, advertising writer



About 400+ job seekers turned out for the Akron Beacon Journal's "New Year New Career" job fair at the Ohio Means Jobs building on January 27, 2015. Several dozen exhibitors were on hand to interview job hopefuls on the spot.

Melody Laster, recruitment assistant from Oriana House, assisted job seekers with information about positions at the local rehabilitation center. One such position is the Resident Supervisor, which is a continually posted, entry-level position. "It's a cross between social work and security," said Laster. She said the ideal candidate should enjoy interacting with clients, have a passion to help people and have good customer service skills. "It helps if candidates have a background in corrections," she added because there is some monitoring of clients. Confidentiality is vital in this position because of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

In addition to applying for jobs, recruiters also offered insight into what they look for when screening candidates, and offered suggestions to help job seekers in their employment search. Laster says she personally "looks for people who present themselves professionally and are polished." What makes a good first impression with her? "Shake my hand," said Laster. "Show an interest in the position, smile and say 'hi' - these are all things that convey confidence," she says.

Caroline Barborak was on hand from Mature Services to talk about a special population of job seekers: senior citizens. Sometimes, people aren't able to make ends meet on

their retirement pension, or they just desire to still be connected to a job that continues to give meaning to their life. "We help older adults get back to work after a layoff or retirement," said Barborak. Mature Services assists older job seekers with technical skills, such as using social media - something that can be baffling - to help market oneself, and even things like how to design a QR code specifically for a resume. "We provide job training and placement, and can even teach older adults how to create resumes using key words that help them get noticed," said Barborak.

Other exhibitors on hand included The Akron Beacon Journal, Aramark, Brown Mackie College, Center Staffing, Clean Harbors Transformer Services, Fortis College, Kent State University, Georgia Pacific, Little Tikes, MT Business Technologies National Church Residences, Primerica Financial Services, Quicken Loans, S.A. Comunale, Select Staffing, Sherwood Foods, Sirak Brockett Agency, Soft-Lite Windows, Sterling Jewelers, Synchrony, TechCenter, Time Warner Cable, VXI, and many more.

The next job fair hosted by the Akron Beacon Journal will be on Tuesday May 26 at the Ohio Means Jobs Center located at 1040 E. Tallmadge Ave. Akron, OH from 10am-1pm. If you are a Company who is interested in attending please email the Akron Beacon Journal recruitment department at helpwanted@thebeaconjournal.com or call: 330-996-FIND(3463). Deadline to book a booth space is May 22, 2015.

