

Bridging Employment Gaps

Tutorial



Do you have gaps in your employment history?

Here are several tactics to keep your professional skills and experience current while in between jobs.



Volunteering

Keep your job skills current or even improve upon them by connecting with an organization related to a cause that you feel passionate about. Your volunteer work shows a potential employer that you have a sense of civic duty or a solid commitment to your craft. Most national organizations have local chapters in major cities.



Social / Personal Interest Organizations

Running clubs or Parent/Teacher/Student Associations offer unique opportunities for job seekers because you can hold an office that is directly related to your field. For example, those interested in accounting, finances or bookkeeping can be Treasurers. Those interested in sales and marketing can be Fundraising Chairs. Those interested in management and human resources, can be Club Presidents. You can diversify your skills and show employers that you are willing and able to take on a leadership role.



Temporary Services

They can provide income while you're job hunting. While their positions may be temporary and lower level, they will eventually have higher level, full time positions open. If they like your work and you're qualified, they will ask you for an interview.

Sign up with more than one agency to broaden your network and assignment options. If you're seeking employment with a specific company, you can find out which services they use and register with them.



Substitute Teaching

Every school district has had a need for substitute teachers. Most districts only require a Bachelor's Degree. Some benefits of being a substitute teacher are:

- Pay is comparable with other part-time jobs, if not better, depending on school districts
- Work schedules are flexible – you work when you want
- You can choose the school and age group
- If you have children, your work coincides with their school schedule



Professional Certifications / Training

Updating your skills is another option to further develop your resume and differentiate yourself from other candidates. It's important to talk to professionals in your field and do your homework before investing time and money into this strategy. If you find it relevant, it can increase your network of professionals, improve your expertise, and possibly boost your starting salary.



All of these methods double as networking tools which are key in making job connections in any community. These strategies get you up, put together, dressed, and out of the house.

Source: The Internet

