

## Researching Careers, Jobs, Industries and Employers

Lake County Workforce Development helps people who are unemployed or laid off with training and support during their job search. Often, staff meet job seekers who know that they need to change careers but don't know what to do next. Job seekers sometimes seem to hope that someone else will tell them what their next job should be—and preferably name the company where they should apply.

### It's not that simple .

Reinventing your career requires a significant investment on your part. Finding the right career and employer may be key to your future happiness. Isn't that worth some time on your part? Don't jump at the first job that presents itself. **Research** to find the best fit!

### Research Yourself

Frequently when people are first laid off, they have a hard time picturing themselves in a different type of job. For a few days, forget what you believe you know about yourself. Evaluate your strengths and values.

- Take a few personality assessments. Learn about the [Strong Interest Inventory](#) or [Myers Briggs Personality Assessment](#).
- Try out the online assessments on [Illinois workNet](#).
- Ask former co-workers or supervisors for their observations about your talents.

### Research Career Options

Identify a career that links to your passion and strengths.

- Use online tools like the Bureau of Labor Statistic's [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) to research careers. On the [MySkillsMyFuture](#) website, you can type in a former job title to be matched with careers that use similar skills.
- You can also google any career title to see what people are saying about it. Some people write detailed blogs about their occupation.
- Conduct informational interviews. Identify individuals in interesting careers and arrange to speak to them for 15 minutes about their jobs. Live Career offers an excellent series of articles about [how to conduct informational interviews](#).
- Join professional associations in your new industry. This will give you an opportunity to build your network and knowledge about the field.
- Sign up on [Smart Brief](#) for the latest news about your new industry.
- Volunteer in your desired field. Volunteerism shows passion and allows you to make valuable contacts.
- Start with one class in your desired field. Check out the options at your community college. Many major universities are offering [non-credit courses online](#). Attend an [information session at the Job Center](#) to find out about training grants and opportunities.

## **Research Companies**

- Scour the company's website.
- See what others are saying by googling the company.
- Check out the company's press releases.
- Research the company on [Glassdoor](#). On this website, current and former employees anonymously disclose their salary information and opinion of the company.
- If you know a current employee at the company, conduct an informational interview. Learn what the employer is really like and whether you want to work there.

Completing all the steps listed above requires a serious investment. You may feel lost for awhile as you seek to redefine yourself. Give yourself the gift of time. Your persistent research now will lead to long-term satisfaction in a career that suits you perfectly.

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