

Transcript: Job Search Tips for the Holidays

Rosemary Alexander: It's the absolute perfect time. It reinforces with your friends and family that you're still looking but you're still connecting with them. And you know over the course of dinner or a few martinis, they'll say, "Well, how's your job search going? Oh, I have somebody you should talk to after the holidays." That kind of keeping in touch.

Then there's also the opportunity to go to professional organizations that throw parties, and if you go to a party in an area that you're looking for, you might make some connections. I'm not suggesting that you start begging at the buffet table, but be aware that people are relaxed, people are more open, they're more friendly. They're more willing to say, "Well, call me after the holidays," or "I have somebody you should talk to," in a very social setting. Part of the getting the job is showing your personality, so if you do well in social settings and you can make a connection, someone will remember you at a social setting. That may give you a leg up on your job search as well.

Never cut back on your job search. Looking for a job is a job, and you have to be persistent and you have to be consistent. Lots of other people are going to be taking the holidays off. They're going to be flying to Ohio or going out to California to visit Grandma, and it's an opportune time to beat the competition. There's less competition because things do slow down.

Another opportunity is that many employers are winding down projects at the end of the year to get them completed. They're in the office still. You might be able to actually reach a hiring manager directly, if you make your cold calls, if you kind of show up, if you do the introductory kinds of things. Managers have more time on their hands, less people in the office. They might be willing to give you an informational interview.

The other thing is there's all this seasonal work that's available. Now, they're not forever jobs: FedEx, and the travel industry, the entertainment industry. But those industries peak during the holidays because people are partying, they're traveling, they're sending packages, they're doing a variety of different things, so you might be able to pick up a little extra change. Many part-time jobs or temporary jobs turn into permanent jobs, so that's another opportunity that people can use this time to take advantage of.

Don't get discouraged. The economy may not be the greatest, but there is hope and there are opportunities out there. Again, looking for a job is a job. So, the more you put into it the more you get out of it. Be persistent, be prepared, be patient and be pleasant, be personable. It might be your twelfth interview and your tenth rejection, but when you go in there to talk to that employer, you're going to put a smile on your face, you're going to try to let the employer understand that you're going to be a real asset to the organization.