

Calcasieu Workforce Gazette

Calcasieu Workforce Center
Youth Program

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Produced By: Aspen Colley, CWC Youth Participant

Soft Skills Factor into a Job Search

By: Susan Ricker ~ CAREERBUILDER

Have you ever gone to a job interview and felt like you were the perfect fit for the job, only to find out the company hired someone else? While you may have possessed the right technical skills for the role, there's a chance another set of skills determined the employers hiring decision: soft skills.

The attributes that make up your personality and "emotional intelligence quotient" are often characterized as soft skills, or the traits that you excel at and naturally enjoy.

Identifying your own soft skills, as well as understanding the ones employers often look for, can strengthen your job search and allow you to present yourself as the total package.

SKILLS EMPLOYERS WANT

Some soft skills are better suited to a job than others, but there are a number of common traits that most employers are seeking. According to the national Association of Colleges and Employers' "Job Outlook 2013," employers have common preferences in the soft skills they're looking for in an employee.

When asked what skills and qualities employers want to see, employers' top five picks were leadership, problem-solving skills, written and verbal communication skills, the ability to work in a team and analytical/quantitative skills.

IDENTIFYING THOSE SKILLS

In order to know which soft skills you possess, it's easiest to start by asking others. "Ask a couple of people with whom you have worked in the past, a couple friends or anyone else who knows you well. Ask not only what they think your soft skills are, but for examples of where they have seen you successfully use those skills.

PUT YOUR SKILLS TO WORK

After identifying your soft skills, it's time to put them to work for you, "I think the trick in communicating soft skills can be summed up as 'show, not tell,'" says Alex Zorach, Founder and Editor of RateTea.com, who used previous experience and examples on his resume to effectively demonstrate his soft skills.

"In other words, you need to demonstrate something highly specific. I like to look for my biggest specific accomplishments that communicate a skill," says Zorach.

Demonstrating both your technical and soft skills can show employers that you are well-rounded and have what it takes to get the job done.

Upcoming Events



WIA Orientation

When: Monday, May 4, 2015
Where: Business and Career Solutions Center
Time: 8:30a.m. OR 1:00 p.m.

Manpower Hospitality Hiring Event

When: Thursday, May 7, 2015
Where: Business and Career Solutions Center
Time: 8:30a.m to 12:00p.m.

Job Corps Recruitment Event

When: Monday, May 18, 2015
Where: Business and Career Solutions Center
Time: 9:00a.m. To 12:00p.m.



2015 Annual Youth Summit/Job Fair

On April 16, 2015, the Calcasieu Workforce Center hosted its 2015 Annual Youth Summit/Job Fair at the Lake Charles Civic Center. The keynote speaker was Mr. Bryan Moore, Director of the Office of Workforce Development for the Louisiana Workforce Commission. Other summit speakers were: Mr. McDonald Carheel, President – Carheel Consulting; Ms. Victoria Casanova, Mary Kay Consultant; Ms. Aminah Trahan, Training & Development Specialist, Calcasieu Parish Police Jury; and Ms. Jonnika Boutte, Youth Counselor, Calcasieu Workforce Center. Speakers covered such topics as High Demand Occupations, WIA Youth Services, Appearance in the Workplace, and Everyday Opportunities.

Over 250 youth attended the summit. Twenty employers were on hand to interview, accept applications, answer questions, etc. Also present, were representatives from SPARC Academy, Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), McNeese State University, SWLA Independence Center, National Guard Youth Challenge Program, Sowela Technical Community College, and Job Corps to answer questions regarding post-secondary education and training opportunities.



Calcasieu Workforce Center Youth Program



Business & Career Solution's Center

2424 Third Street

Lake Charles, LA 70601

Phone: 337-721-4010

TDD relay number:

1-800-947-5211 or 711

Fax: 337-721-4186



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