

OPCD Podcast: Episode 17 - “Employer Perspective” (2/5/2015)

Interview with Ms. Carla Tucholsky, *Talent Acquisition Specialist for Enterprise Holdings*
Mr. Eric Savage, *Territory Sales Manager with Altria Group Distribution* and
Ms. Amanda, *Human Resources Department of Briggs Equipment*

Amanda: You be confident.

Eric: Take the time to research the company.

Carla: Always want to keep great eye contact.

Eric: People that are looking to be innovative, looking to do things in a new way and are passionate about the job.

Voiceover: You got it! Time to hear from those doing the hiring today on the Harbert College OPCD podcast.

As we’ve said before, knowing what an employer is looking for goes a long way when it comes to acing an interview. And who better to give you that perspective than the employers themselves.

Carla: My name is Carla Tucholsky and I work for Enterprise Holdings, which is Enterprise National and Alamo car rental, and I am a talent acquisition specialist. First and foremost, in a career setting you always want to keep great eye contact. You need to make sure that you’re paying attention to the person you're talking to. If you're waiting to talk to somebody, act engaged and act like you're really wanting to talk to them. Make sure that you have a firm handshake, not too hard but definitely not too soft. Having a handshake is one thing that recruiters use to tell your personality, to be honest with you, because we're always looking people who have outgoing great personalities and when you come in and introduce yourself with a great handshake, we know that you're going to be great.

Voiceover: So making eye contact, looking alert and a good handshake - all very important in the moment. But what about prep work that can be done before that face to face interview?

Eric: My name is Eric Savage, I work for Altria Group Distribution Company and I'm a Territory Sales Manager. Advice that I would give to students that really want to stand out at career fairs, or just really across the professional experience leading up to their first full time job, is to, one, just is to be prepared. When you come into a career fair take the time to research the companies. It's as little as five minutes of pulling out maybe your phone in class when someone is speaking and learning about their company or even just spending twenty minutes the night before really looking at what's important to the company. I can't emphasize how much the difference in impact you can make in an impression, that you

can make on the employers, by just simply knowing what the company does, knowing their industry and knowing what jobs they're hiring for. So it really makes you stand out.

Voiceover: Good to know! And lastly, let's back off even further and look at the big picture. What are a few overall characteristics that really cause a job candidate to shine?

Amanda: My name is Amanda, I'm with Briggs equipment and I work in the Human Resources department. Characteristics that we're looking for in a candidate is someone that has a positive attitude, is willing to come in to be flexible and open to change and just go with it. You know, salt of the earth people who can roll up sleeves and just dive head on in.

Voiceover: All very good information to have as you're entering the job search and your career field. And here's a few additional things to keep in mind: if you're needing help with nearly any of the topics these recruiters just touched on, the Office of Professional and Career Development has got your back. You now know what employers are looking for and we're here to you in any way we can as you become that top of the line candidate. That could mean anything from help with your resume, advice for business social media, tips on professional dress or seminars to prep you for career fairs and interviews. The cool part is that, when all of the pieces come together, employers really do take notice

Carla: I think the Business School does a really good job of preparing their candidates for the future. I have never had a candidate come from Auburn that is not well dressed to an interview that is not prepared and really does not say the right thing. So it's one of my favorite schools to come to for those reasons.

Eric: We really believe in the student culture of our business students are at Auburn University and how they carry themselves. As well, we believe in the quality instruction that they're getting from their professors.

Voiceover: So there you have it! Thanks so much to everyone who took the time to share their insight with us today on the Harbert College OPCD podcast. Walk in hours are from 11 - 2 daily, if you'd like any additional info, and we hope to see you here soon. Have a week - see ya next time!