

OPCD Podcast: Episode 5 - “Career Expo” (9/25/2014)

Interview with various recruiters at Supply Chain & Aviation Management Career Expo

Recruiter #5: The ability to come talk to us

Recruiter #1: Professional business attire

Recruiter #2: Self motivated

Recruiter #1: A polished resume

Voiceover: Wanna know what recruiters are looking for? Now that you’ve practiced your pitch and perfected that resume, it’s time to take on the career expo. We’ll fill you in on everything you need to know, check it out!

Hey everybody, I’m Anna, back again this week on the OPCD podcast and if you didn’t make it to this week’s career expo - no worries - I’m bringing it to you! It’s a lot easier to be the next great find when you know what a company is looking for. So let’s talk with a few to find out just what kind of things will catch their eye.

Recruiter #1: Hey, this is Taylor with Gypsum Management and Supply. I’m a recruiter for the company and we are looking for students that have internship experience that come to the job fair knowing what they are looking for. If they don’t know the types of positions at least know what they enjoy about their major and why they chose that major. I’m certainly looking for a polished resume and professional business attire.

Recruiter #2: My name is Joseph Thornton. I’m a National Account Manager and Team Lead with XPO logistics. I really like to see people that look like they’re real go getters, they’re self-motivated, doesn’t really have to have a supervisor looking over their shoulders at all times. Somebody that we can count on really going after and building their own future.

Voiceover: Other things mentioned were as simple as making eye contact when speaking or expressing a passion for careers and positions that you may be interested in exploring in the future. And while grades are something that should by no means be neglected, it was refreshing to hear this recruiter’s thoughts echoed by several different organizations.

Recruiter #3: You know I don’t really care what your GPA is. That doesn’t mean a lot to me. Certain organizations say “if you don’t have a 4.0 you can’t,” GPA means nothing to me. I want an overall individual. Somebody who is the full picture. I don’t just want the 4.0 student.

Voiceover: And it does seem that when it comes to Auburn students, the recruiters were pretty interested in what they were seeing.

Recruiter #4: I think it seems just from looking around and watching people come by the table, a lot of people well prepped. Everyone's wearing the suits, ties, and they're looking the part of whatever occupation they're here to seek after. They're definitely coming prepared with resumes. All the resumes we've seen today have been very well laid out, succinct and we can easily find the information quickly. Whatever counselors and professors have prepped them have prepped them very well.

Voiceover: So what about following up with an employer after that initial face-to-face meeting? Anything else you can do to stand out of the crowd while keeping your name fresh in their mind?

Recruiter #1: We always appreciate a follow up email. A handwritten note card is certainly appreciated as well though we don't expect that nowadays. We totally understand that many things are now electronic so email is perfectly appropriate.

Recruiter #5: If you add me on LinkedIn that just gives you ten golden stars on my board. Add me on LinkedIn. If you send me an email, follow the company on LinkedIn after you add me, things like that - I pay attention to that.

Voiceover: And one final piece of advice to wrap us up for this week that I heard at nearly every table: don't limit yourself to just one or two companies at the expo. It's fine to have certain ones spotlighted for the top of your list but talk to as many people as you can. Even if they don't seemingly have something you're interested in you're still gaining valuable practice time perfecting your pitch, expanding your networks and there's always a chance that they have a position that would be perfect for you. And on that note, I'll say that next week we're talking interviews. If you've been spotlighted as a candidate for a job or internship, what can you do to improve your chances of becoming that next new-hire? Be sure to check back with us for that info by searching "OPCD" in the iTunes store. Get the latest episode each week by subscribing cause we've got a lot of cool stuff coming your way! There's still two career weeks left so get involved and let's get hired. Till next week - see ya!