

Employers need Jobseekers!

Nearly every day, the Santa Clarita WorkSource Center talks to employers that are having a difficult time finding employees. We are not just talking about a few jobs here and there. There are employers in the Santa Clarita Valley and nearby, that have collectively hundreds of open and upcoming positions that they need to fill. Between now and the end of June the WorkSource Center already will be working with seven employers that need assistance filling more than 350 positions. The positions range from entry level unskilled labor to high level distribution management positions.

But where are all of the jobseekers for these positions?

Last week we spent time searching through LinkedIn looking for jobseekers to fill lead, supervisor and management positions in distribution, and were disappointed with the results. We know that there are individuals out there that would be a great fit for these positions but they seem to be in hiding. With that said, keeping your profile up to date on LinkedIn is just one of the ways that you can become a “visible” jobseeker.

Traditionally, jobs are found by targeting employers that you want to work for, networking, attending job fairs, and searching the Internet. Another, often overlooked way to get a job, is to be found. A wide variety of sources estimate that more than 90 percent of U.S. employers report searching on LinkedIn when trying to fill their professional positions.

Becoming a visible jobseeker is important if you want to speed up the pace at which you find a job. On July 2, the WorkSource Centers throughout California will be going online with a new computer system for jobseekers and employers. The new system will allow our career service representatives to search through the records of individuals registered in the CalJobs database of jobseekers to find those that match the criteria our employers are looking for to fill their positions. It will help us to find you, the jobseeker, more easily in order to connect you with potential job opportunities.

The only way it will work though, is if you are registered in the CalJobs system. If you have already registered, your information is expected to transfer to the new system. If you haven't yet registered, you can go online to www.caljobs.ca.gov to do so at any time. If you need assistance with registering, come on in to the WorkSource Center and we will be happy to assist you.

And, finally, when looking for a new or better job, being the “squeaky wheel” will also help to make you more visible to employers and staffing agencies. Don't just sign up with a staffing agency and expect that they will call you when they have a job for you. Part of what recruiters do is to determine which jobseekers are actively looking for jobs and truly want to get back to work. If a recruiter doesn't hear from you on a regular basis, it isn't likely that you will be one of the first jobseekers they think of when they are alerted to a new job opening. Keeping in touch with connections in your network and placement staff trying to assist you, will help them to remember you when they get a new job listing that is a good fit for you.

Keri Aaver is the Interim Director of the Santa Clarita WorkSource Center at College of the Canyons. Her column reflects her own views and not necessarily those of The Signal. For more information about the Santa Clarita WorkSource Center services and workshops, call (661) 799-WORK (9675) or visit www.scworksource.com.