HOW TO LAND A JOB
FINDING & APPLYING FOR JOBS

CONTENTS

Job Search Tips ................................................................. 2
Utilize CougLink ................................................................. 3
Attend Career Fairs & Visit Career Centers ......................... 4
Look on the Internet – Job Boards and Company Websites .... 5
Conduct Company Research ............................................... 6
Build and Use Your Network ............................................. 7
Networking Samples ......................................................... 10
Get Connected with LinkedIn .......................................... 14
What Not To Do – Common Networking Mistakes ............ 15
Informational Interviews .................................................. 16
Job Tracking Sheet ........................................................... 18
Notes ................................................................................ 20
Job Search Tips

**START EARLY**
Finding a job takes time
Average job search takes approximately 6 months.

**DETERMINE AND CLARIFY WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR**
Industries, companies, positions, locations, benefits, etc.

**CONSIDER “EMERGING” JOB MARKETS**
Government, agriculture, healthcare, environmental, nonprofit agencies, etc.

**REMAIN OPEN-MINDED**
Your “dream job” might be with a company you have never heard of.

**HAVE A PLAN AND BE READY**
Develop your job search strategy and the steps you are going to take.

**BE COMMITTED**
Searching for a job takes dedication and patience.

**USE THE JOB SEARCH TRACKING SHEET (PAGE 18)**
Stay organized and keep on top of your next steps for each position or lead.
We spend 1/4 of our lives preparing for the next 3/4!

You bet your job search is important!
CougLink is a free service designed specifically for WSU students. This is where employers looking for WSU students post open jobs and internships. It is a computerized system that allows you to:

- Update your personal profile and upload your resume.
- Access job and internship postings nationwide and view comprehensive employer profiles.
- Schedule on-campus interviews and learn about career fairs, workshops, and other activities.
- Create job search agents and receive emails about postings related to your interests.

**Home**
Check announcements, find out when you’ve been selected for an interview, and find shortcuts.

**My Account**
Fill out all of your personal information in order to determine what positions you qualify for.

**Resumes and Documents**
Upload and store your resumes, cover letters, transcripts, and any other relevant documents (max. 10 documents). You cannot apply for any positions without a resume uploaded.

**Jobs and Internships**
View jobs and/or internships based on your search criteria. CougLink includes positions posted specifically for WSU students and alumni. NACElink Network contains national job postings. Once you have found a position you will be able to view a description of the company, the application deadline, and the position qualifications.

- If the employer conducts interviews on campus you will also be able to see the interview location, interview date, and the interview sign-up start and end dates.
- Apply for the position by clicking on Apply when viewing an open position. View what documents are required for the job application. You will be able to choose between the different documents you have uploaded in the Documents tab. (Some employers require that you apply through the company website.)

**Employers and Contacts**
Scroll through thousands of employer profiles and save those in which you are interested (under Favorite Employers). You can see what positions companies are trying to fill, contact information, and when employers are coming to campus.

**On-Campus Interviews**
Keep track of all the interviews you have applied for and those to which you have been invited to participate in. The easiest way to apply for an on-campus interview is to click the “On-Campus Interviews I Qualify For” shortcut which is located on the Home tab. Remember: If your status for an interview is “invited”, then you still must either schedule or decline the interview.

**Surveys**
Complete surveys uploaded by CACD regarding their services, students’ employment, etc.

**Events**
Information about upcoming events such as the Career Expo, information sessions, and workshops.

**Calendar**
View details of interviews, events, workshops, or information sessions.

*If you are an enrolled WSU student, you have a CougLink account. Log in using your WSU Network ID and password.*
ATTEND CAREER FAIRS & VISIT CAREER CENTERS

Career Fairs
There are multiple career fairs held on campus each semester. This is where you will find information about companies, internships, and jobs as well as meet company recruiters. Companies coming to campus are looking for you, so be sure to attend! There are other area career fairs as well that you may be interested in attending.

CAREER NETWORKING NIGHT - hosted by the Carson Center each semester
An exclusive opportunity for business students to network with companies offering jobs and internships. It takes place the night before the WSU Career Expo and features companies looking specifically for business students. Brief company presentations are followed by a networking hour at company booths.

WSU CAREER EXPO - hosted by the Center for Advising and Career Development (CACD) each semester
Scheduled every October and February and is open to all WSU students. Company representatives from diverse companies set up booths and talk to interested students.

HOSPITALITY CAREER NIGHT - hosted by the School of Hospitality Business Management in the Spring
Company representatives from the hospitality industry set up booths and talk with hospitality majors and minors interested in pursuing a career in the hospitality industry.

Career Fair Tips
- Research the companies in advance.
- Be prepared to talk about your goals and what you are looking for.
- Come with questions to ask recruiters.
- Dress professionally.
- Bring copies of your resume in a professional portfolio.
- Be open-minded – don’t just visit the booths of companies you already know.

Career Centers
CARSON CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS (TODD HALL 101)
WWW.BUSINESS.WSU.EDU/CARSONCENTER
The Carson Center offers resume critiques, mock interviews, career counseling, and professional development workshops for business majors, minors, and engineering students. Information about recruiting companies and assistance with internship and job searches is also available.

CENTER FOR ADVISING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT (LIGHTY 160 & 180)
WWW.CACD.WSU.EDU
The CACD has many resources available for students including career advising, resume help, and workshops. They also assist all WSU students with their internship and/or job searches.
LOOK ON THE INTERNET –
JOB BOARDS AND COMPANY WEBSITES

The internet has a wealth of resources for job searching. Take the time to look at job boards and company websites for internship and job postings.

Job Boards
There are hundreds of job boards and even some related to specific industries. Here are a few to browse for general career information and job postings:

- Careerbuilder.com
- Careerrookie.com
- Vault.com
- Wetfeet.com
- Monster.com
- Simplyhired.com
- USAjobs.gov (federal government jobs)
- Idealist.org (nonprofit jobs)
- myvisajobs.com (international students)
- Goingglobal.com

When searching online job boards, it’s important to do multiple searches with different key words. Otherwise, you may not uncover an opportunity that you would be interested in. This will take some time, but is a good way to find job postings.

Company Websites
Look at websites of companies that interest you and see what opportunities are available. It is helpful to make a list of companies that you are interested in and look them up. Then find out who their competitors are and research them too. Also consider other companies they do business with. Don’t limit yourself to just the big companies that you’ve heard of a hundred times – you may find that the perfect job for you is somewhere else.

It is also important to consider emerging markets. Certain industries and fields are blossoming while others are struggling. Search out companies in those that are prospering right now. Here are a few markets to consider:

- Agriculture
- Energy
- Environmental/Green
- Federal Government
- Health care
- Nonprofit
CONDUCT COMPANY RESEARCH

Be knowledgeable and prepared – it will pay off!
Gathering information about the industries and companies you are interested in is critical to any internship or job search. Learn as much about the company and its operations as you can. This will allow you to be better prepared for your job search and interviews.

WHY you should do company research
• Identify industries and careers of interest.
• Learn about companies and positions.
• Narrow down career options (focus your search)
  o Is the company/position right for you?
  o Does it meet your immediate and long-term goals?
• Help you answer interview questions
  o What do you know about our company?
  o Why do you want to work for us?
• Shows your interest and enthusiasm.
• Gives you an advantage in a competitive job market.

WHERE you can find company information
• Internet/company websites
• Company’s annual/quarterly report
• Literature provided by the company (marketing or product brochures)
• Informational interview
• Inside source or company recruiter
• Professional journal, article, press release
• Library resources
• Career centers

WHAT you should know about a company
• Products/services, customers/clients/target market
• Date company started, size of company, CEO
• Geographical location of headquarters, offices
• Company mission statement, company culture
• Organizational structure, divisions/departments
• Marketing campaigns/slogans, competitors
• Career paths – types of jobs, training programs
• Sales, assets, earnings, past growth/future potential
• Employee benefits, work-life balance
• Charitable organizations supported
BUILD AND USE YOUR NETWORK

Build relationships with people you know and meet new people. Let people know you are looking for a job and ask for information about career paths and companies. Also, conduct informational interviews to make connections and gain useful information.

What’s the big deal about networking?

70% - 80%
of open positions are unadvertised.

Your network is a group of supporters who serve as resources for your job search and ultimately for your career. Networking is the process of building relationships with people who can help and who will make up your network. Networking is NOT one-sided, just asking for a job, or a “What can you do for me?” mentality. It is about building relationships and helping each other.

Benefits of Networking
- Job opportunities
- Career advice
- Validation of your decisions
- Insider information
- Finding mentors

Networking is for everyone. Even if you think you don’t know the right people, you’ll be surprised once you start talking to the people you know and getting referrals. Your purpose in networking is to get to know people who can provide information regarding careers and job leads.

The networking process may be easier for people who are naturally outgoing, but everyone (even the quiet and shy) can learn how to do it well. The steps below will walk you through the process and help you to feel confident and prepared.

7 Steps for Effective Networking
1. Make a list of everyone you know. (professors, advisors, family, neighbors, bosses and coworkers, family friends, etc.)

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8
2. **Define your purpose and prepare questions.**
   a. What do you want help with? (finding jobs, resume help, career advice, etc.)
      ____________________________________________
      ____________________________________________
      ____________________________________________
   b. What are you looking for? (which industries, companies, types of jobs, etc.)
      ____________________________________________
      ____________________________________________
      ____________________________________________
   c. What do you expect from the people you talk to? (information, leads, meetings, etc.)
      ____________________________________________
      ____________________________________________
      ____________________________________________
   d. What questions will you ask? (don’t just ask for a job – ask for advice, information and contacts…and ask open ended questions)
      ____________________________________________
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3. **Write a 30-second introduction.** (about you, your accomplishments, your goals, why you are contacting them, etc. – samples on page 10)
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   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
4. Prepare a networking cover letter and resume.
   a. Highlight your most significant accomplishments and qualifications.
   b. Have a profile on your resume indicating the skills you possess and what you can offer the company. (Samples on pages 11-13)

5. Make contact and build relationships.
   a. Practice your 30-second introduction and questions to ask.
   b. Call, email or visit the people on your list. (Sample emails on page 10)
      - Conduct informational interviews. (Page 16)
   c. Meet new people.
      - Talk to people everywhere you go.
      - Attend career fairs.
      - Conduct research.
   d. Ask for business cards and have your own to hand out.
   e. Think about the relationship, not just getting a job.
      - Consider the big picture and never burn bridges.
      - Take notes and remember the information you’re given.

6. Follow up and follow through.
   a. ALWAYS follow through on leads or contacts, even if you don’t think it will lead to anything.
      - Remember who referred you so that you can use their name.
   b. Follow up in a week (or specified time) if they promised to do something, but don’t pester.
   c. Keep track of all contacts you make and what the outcome or next steps are.

7. ALWAYS send thank you cards or emails. (Interviewing & Accepting the Offer, page 13)
   a. Even if the lead didn’t amount to anything, be sure to show your appreciation.
   b. If they weren't able to help at the time, send an email to build a relationship and keep the door open in the future.

**Notice that you don’t contact anyone until step 5.**

Do your homework beforehand and you’ll feel more comfortable and have more success.**

### Networking Tips
- Be sincere and confident.
- Be nice and remember personal details.
- Have personal business cards and carry them with you.
- Join professional associations/organizations.
- Make an impression...be memorable.
- Send thank you cards or emails within 48 hours.
- Be patient...it will take time.
- Maintain long-term relationships (LinkedIn is a good tool).
Networking Samples

30-SECOND INTRODUCTIONS

Hi, I’m Nicole Smith. I’ll be receiving my Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration in May from WSU, and have spent the past 4 years preparing to be an excellent marketing professional. Last summer I interned with Boeing in their marketing department and I am currently the Vice President of the Marketing Club. I’m looking for a job in sales or marketing in the Seattle area.

Hello. My name is Robert Wong. I attend WSU and will be receiving my degree in Business Administration with a major in Finance this May. Through my education, I have gained strong quantitative and analytical skills, and I’m currently seeking a financial planning position. Could you tell me what skills and experience your firm looks for in its financial planners?

NETWORKING EMAILS

Dear Mr. Johnson,

My name is Jane Smith and I am a management major at Washington State University and will be graduating this May. I’ve been actively involved with the Management Club, leading a project to help a local employment agency review and improve their HR processes.

I’m looking for a position in management or human resources and would welcome the chance to talk with you in person. I’m attaching my resume and cover letter and will be in the Seattle area during the holiday break if you have some time to meet. I hope to hear from you soon.

Thank you for your time.
Jane Smith

Dear Ms. White,

My name is Steve Morris and I will be graduating this May with a degree in Business Administration from Washington State University. I was referred to you by Michael Taylor at Any Company. He suggested that I contact you about a possible job opportunity. I am looking to gain experience in management and Michael thought you may be able to help me.

I’ve attached my resume and cover letter which outlines my skills and experience in detail and hope to set up a time that we can meet. I welcome any advice or information you may have as I prepare to launch my career.

Thank you for your time.
Steve Morris
October 23, 2013

Sue Knight, Hiring Manager
XYZ Company
789 Business Drive
Renton, WA 99567

Dear Ms. Knight:

Amy Evans, from Products, Inc. in Spokane, told me you are looking for a person to fill the position of Market Analyst. She thought the job description matched my qualifications, and suggested that I contact you.

I am very interested in working with a dynamic corporation such as XYZ. I believe I could make a significant contribution by utilizing my skills, experience and education in the area of marketing. As an intern for JK Industries, I gained a considerable amount of knowledge and experience in market research. Also, as President of the Marketing Club, I have developed and put into practice my leadership and communication skills. I have enclosed my resume to further outline my background and experience.

If you have already filled the position, please consider me for related positions. I would appreciate the opportunity to tell you more about myself and how I believe I can make a contribution to XYZ. I have researched your company and am impressed with your company's management style and reputation in the industry. I am very interested in exploring job opportunities with your organization.

I look forward to meeting with you and will give you a call early next week to follow up on this letter. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Scott Wilson

Enclosure
October 26, 2013

John Wright, Project Manager
Finance Company
789 Business Drive
Renton, WA 99567

Dear Mr. Wright:

I was referred to you by Diane Johnson from Any Company in Spokane. Currently, I am a senior studying finance at Washington State University and am looking forward to launching my career this May after I graduate. Diane recommended you as an excellent source of information on the finance industry.

As an intern for ABC Paint Company, I gained a considerable amount of knowledge and experience in management and financial reports. I was exposed to the daily management tasks of a store as well as the corporate financial and sales data. It was beneficial to see first-hand what it takes to run a business from the financial and logistical sides. I also gained experience in payroll, accounts payable and accounts receivable as a Financial Assistant for the City of Pullman. As Vice President of the Finance club, I have developed and put into practice my leadership and communication skills.

My goal is to secure an entry-level position in the finance industry. I would appreciate hearing your advice on career opportunities, conducting an effective job search, and how best to uncover job leads.

Thank you, in advance, for any insight and advice you would be willing to share. If possible, I would like to set up an informational interview with you. I will contact you early next week to see if you would be willing to meet with me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

{Signature}

Chad Lincoln

Enclosure
Sample Networking Resume

Chad Lincoln

Linkedin.com/in/clincoln
Spokane, WA 99359
509.222.3333
clincoln@email.com

Profile
Broad background in finance and business with solid skills in payroll, accounts payable and receivable. Ability to comprehend financial reports, conduct economic analysis, and generate sales.

Education
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY, Pullman, WA
Bachelor of Arts Business Administration, Finance Major – 3.7 GPA
May 2014
Additional coursework in international business, marketing and management.

SPOKANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Spokane, WA
Associate of Arts, Business Studies – 3.6 GPA
June 2012
General business principles surrounding accounting, statistics, and economics.

Experience
CITY OF PULLMAN, Pullman, WA
Sept. 2011 – Present
Finance Assistant
Assisted with payroll, accounts payable and accounts receivable. Completed purchase orders and invoices. Responsible for purchasing of supplies for all ten departments.
- Designed, constructed and tested online evaluation system.
- Prepared documents for budget hearings.

ABC PAINT COMPANY, Spokane, WA
Summer 2011
Management Trainee Intern
Managed commercial and retail sales of paint and coatings at local outlet. Reviewed financial reports and sales data. Executed daily operations of store, including shipping and receiving, customer service and marketing.
- Increased sales despite a declining new construction market.
- Completed local economic analysis project.
- Successful completion of intensive training program.

PAINTING AND MORE, Spokane, WA
Summer 2009 & 2010
Owner/Manager
Founded the company and navigated the licensing, bonding and insurance processes. Responsible for advertising, sales and account management. Hired, trained, and supervised employees.
- Steadily increased business accounts and sales from one person business to a team of 6 full-time employees.
- Painted more than 15 homes and businesses and grossed over $60,000 from May to August.

Leadership
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Vice President, WSU Finance Club 2011 – 2012
Council Member, Business-Student Leadership Council 2011 – 2012
SIFE Project Team Leader, Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) 2011 – 2013

Volunteer
Spanish Computer Instructor, Children International Spring 2012
Faculty Forum Organizer, WSU Tsunami Relief Week Fall 2011
Group Leader, WSU Diversity Recruiting Conference Fall 2011
ESL Mentor, Edison Elementary School 2010 - 2011
Get Connected with LinkedIn

Once you have completed your LinkedIn profile (*Competing in the Job Market*, page 8), it's time to get connected and expand your network!

**CONNECT**
- Use webmail import to see all the people you know who are already on LinkedIn. You can then select who you wish to invite to join your network. (You can also upload a contacts file from Outlook, Palm, ACT!, or Mac Address.)
- Every time you meet someone new, try to find them on LinkedIn and invite them to connect. This allows you to maintain a relationship with that person.

**GET INTRODUCED**
- Request introductions from your connections.
- Search for people in positions or companies that you are interested in. Learn their background and see who you know in common that you could get an introduction from.

**JOIN GROUPS**
- Join alumni groups - “WSU College of Business Students and Alums” and “Alumni of Washington State University”
- Join professional industry groups related to your career goals and interests and participate in discussions.

**FIND JOBS**
- Search for open positions by keyword, company, location, industry, experience level, date posted and more. Get full job descriptions and instructions to apply.
- Look for job postings on group pages.

**FOLLOW COMPANIES**
- Search for companies you are interested in and also look at companies that people in your network are working at.
- Click “Follow Company” in the upper right hand corner of the page to track developments including job opportunities.

**ASK QUESTIONS**
- In the Answers section, ask a question about business knowledge, experience, or opinions and get answers from professionals in your network and other experts worldwide.
- Read question and answers to stay up-to-date in your field and interest areas.
What Not To Do – Common Networking Mistakes

Pushing your needs and agenda 100% of the time
Instead, focus on building relationships while at the same time making it known that you are in the job market.

Sending random invitations to connect on LinkedIn or other networking sites
Make sure you know the person, or take the time to get to know them, before inviting them to connect. This will make them a more reliable contact for you and they are much more likely to accept your invitation.

Attending an event unprepared
Even if you aren’t planning to network, you never know who you may meet. Remember to have business cards with you and resumes if it’s a specific job or career networking event. Also make sure you are dressed professionally and avoid alcohol before and during professional events.

Not following up and saying “Thank you”
Even if they weren’t specific about next steps, send a quick email or thank you card to keep the connection and build a relationship.

Talking negatively about others
Don’t criticize or belittle former supervisors, coworkers, professors or classmates. Always keep the conversation positive.

Disregarding advice and acting arrogant
Listen to the advice you are given and be respectful. You don’t always have to agree, but people are trying to help and professionals in the field are the best ones to get help from.

Not knowing what to say
Be prepared and you’ll feel more confident and have more success.

An unprofessional email address
Use a professional email address when you’re networking and job searching. It should be just some version of your name, with numbers if necessary.

Failing to ask
Be prepared with requests that would be helpful to you, then ask. The worst that can happen is they say “no.” But also make sure that your requests are reasonable.

Being passive – taking the first “no”
If someone tells you “no,” don’t assume they don’t want to help – that just means that they can’t help you in that way. Continue to build a relationship and find other ways they may be able to help. Also, “no” may just mean “not now.”

Lying
Always be completely honest and up front. If you aren’t, chances are you’ll get caught and ruin the relationship and potentially many others with people that one person knows.

Stopping networking once you have a job
While you should not continue to pursue job opportunities once you have accepted one, always continue to meet people and build relationships. Networking is about more than just getting jobs – it can help you build and enhance your career.
Informational Interviews

In an informational interview the roles are reversed – you, the job seeker, initiate the interview and ask all the questions. The purpose is to gain information, not to get a job. You want to learn if a certain career, position, or company is right for you. This form of networking allows you one-on-one time with a professional to learn about their career path and the organization they work for.

**BEFORE THE INTERVIEW**

- **Identify who you want to talk to.** This can be done through referrals from other people you know, via LinkedIn, or by finding someone on a company website.
- **Set up the interview.** Always be polite and understanding that people are busy and will be taking time out of their day to meet with you. Call or email to ask for an interview and include the following:
  - A brief introduction about yourself.
  - Why you would like to meet with them – remember you are seeking information and advice, not a job.
  - Suggest a few days and times for the interview, but mention that you are flexible.
- **Conduct research.** Learn about the company and the person’s position so that you can ask specific and meaningful questions.
- **Make a list of questions to ask.** List the most important questions first in case you run out of time. It is okay to ask about potential job opportunities, but this should not be the focus of the interview.
- **Be prepared.** Dress professionally, arrive 5 minutes early, bring a pen and paper, and wear a watch. Don’t take your cell phone.

**CONDUCTING THE INTERVIEW**

- Briefly introduce yourself and thank them for meeting with you.
- Ask your prepared questions and take notes.
- Do NOT continue to ask questions after your scheduled time is up.
- Wrap up the interview by asking if it would be okay for you to contact them in the future if you have other questions. Also ask for a business card, thank them for their time, and shake their hand.

**AFTER THE INTERVIEW**

- Send a thank you card or email within 48 hours. (*Interviewing & Accepting the Offer, page 13*)
- Follow up on any contacts or suggestions you were given.

**WHAT QUESTIONS WOULD YOU ASK?**

_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
Sample Questions for Informational Interviews

Select questions (or write your own) that fit you and the person you are interviewing best.

ABOUT THE POSITION OR CAREER PATH

- How did you get started in this field? What sparked your interest?
- Does the job differ from what you expected?
- What is your educational background? What education and training is required in this field?
- What courses or experiences have proved the most valuable to you up to this point? Any recommendations for me?
- What are some keywords to include on a resume or cover letter in this field?
- What are some entry-level positions in your field? Can you describe the main duties?
- What steps did you take to obtain this job?
- What do you find most interesting or rewarding about your job?
- What is the most challenging aspect? What causes the most stress in this job?
- Are there opportunities for advancement?
- What is the typical career path for someone in this field?
- Which skills are most important to acquire?
- What are the duties performed during a typical day? Week? Month? How much variety is there on a day-to-day basis?
- What are some related career fields or job opportunities?
- Is this a rapidly growing field that shows promise for future job openings?
- To what extent do you interact with customers/clients?
- Is your work primarily individual or in groups or teams?
- What do you regard as your greatest achievement in business thus far?
- What inspires you in your line of work?

ABOUT THE COMPANY OR INDUSTRY

- What are the best things about working for this company?
- What is unique about this company?
- Can you describe the atmosphere or culture of your work environment?
- Who would you say your competitors are? What are you doing to ensure you keep pace with the leaders of your industry?
- What kind of work/internship experience would employers look for in a job applicant?
- How does this company evaluate job performance and determine incentives?
- What are important values of this company?
- How does the company value work-life balance?
- What types of opportunities are typically available for recent graduates?
- Are there any opportunities for job shadowing or internships?

WRAPPING UP

- Is there anything else you think I should know?
- Is there anyone else you recommend I talk to?
## Job Search Tracking Sheet

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Job Search Tracking Sheet

Company ____________________________ Position ____________________________

Contact Name ____________________________ Title ____________________________

Phone ____________________________ Email ____________________________

Referral Name or Source ______________________________________________________

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Job Search Tracking Sheet

Company ____________________________ Position ____________________________

Contact Name ____________________________ Title ____________________________

Phone ____________________________ Email ____________________________

Referral Name or Source ______________________________________________________

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<th>Next Steps</th>
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