



Jobs may be offered on site at job fair

By Aida Mallard

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The Re-Entry Community Job and Resource Fair with employers willing to hire eligible applicants with background issues and other barriers to employment will again be held to help people in the community re-enter the workforce.

It will be held from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Alachua County Library District Headquarters at 401 E. University Ave., and will feature representatives from local agencies to assist with things like housing, legal issues, restoration of rights, educational opportunities and more.

Linda Cue, Alachua County Library District librarian and Rachel Cook, the library district's public relations and marketing manager, have good advice for job seekers.

They recommend bringing several copies of updated resumes. They also said men should wear slacks or dress pants, shirts, comfortable shoes — not sneakers, and women should wear skirts, dresses, dress slacks, shirts, blouses, comfortable shoes — no stiletto heels — and understated hair styles and makeup.

To assist with professional attire, clothing closets are available at the following times and locations: 2–4 p.m. Mondays and 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Thursdays at the Library Partnership Resource Center at 912 NE 16th Ave; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Mondays at the Cone Park Library Resource Center at 2801 E. University Ave. and from 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m. Tuesdays at the SWAG Family Resource Center at 807 SW 64th Terrace.

People interested in scheduling a mock interview may contact family support facilitator Shandra Nichols at the Library Partnership Resource Center at 352-334-0160 or Cue at 352-334-3940. Although not required, job seekers are encouraged to register with Employ Florida at www.employflorida.com, an online tool designed to connect employers and job seekers.

Cook said employment sectors represented at the job fair will include manufacturing, direct and companion care, food services, healthcare/hospital, housekeeping and temp-to hire agencies. She said employers can register for the job and resource fair by contacting Library Partnership Resource Center Manager Cherie Kelly at 352-334-0160 by Thursday.

Some employers will hire on site and have done so at past job fairs, while some employers don't hire on site, Cue said.

Cue said job seekers should be honest about their work history and answer questions clearly and honestly.

"Be on time or early," said Cue. "Come ready and confident you will get a job."

Cook said attitude is important and recommended that job seekers should be mindful of their body language and posture.

Cue said about 100 people attended the job fair last year.

Cue and Cook encourage job seekers to stay inspired and motivated and to not give up.

"We hope even if they don't land a job offer, they will be inspired and motivated to continue their job search with some new tools to help along the way," Cook said. "The benefit of attending the conference and the job fair is the networking opportunity and connecting with Partnership for Strong Families and the library district that will help long term."