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Library Partnership has interview training

By <u>Aida Mallard</u> Special to the Guardian Published: Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 3:41 p.m.

Forget pricey job interview training programs.

At the Library Partnership Resource Center you can schedule a free mock interview that resembles the real thing and may very well help you land the job you want.

Jenn Petion, director of community and government relations at Partnership for Strong Families, said the mock interview is a one-on-one coaching and interview preparation session offered from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday at Library Partnership Resource Center, 1130 NE 16th Ave. To schedule an appointment, call 352-334-0164 or send an email to sabrina.williams@pfs.org.

"We strongly suggest calling and making an appointment," Petion said. "So that we can give the time and preparation tailored to each participant."

Petion said the mock interview covers interview etiquette and teaches participants to sell themselves. She said it targets people who need to brush up on interview skills for a possible future position and/or people who have applied for a job and need to hone skills for a specific interview.

"We've identified interview coaching as a great need," Petion said. "This is something we know there is a need for at Library Partnership. We realize in this community employability skills are one of the most sought after services."

Petion emphasized the importance for job candidates to present themselves well during a job interview.

"It can make a difference between landing the job or not, regardless of your qualifications," Petion said.

She strongly recommended preparing for the interview by bringing a resume and/or information about the position you have in mind. In addition, she recommends reading through job postings and researching the company to gain more information about it. Then based on the research, interviewees can create questions to show interest and knowledge of the company/organization they're applying for.

Petion said mock interview training will be ongoing as long as there is a need at Library Partnership.

"The economy is improving but there are still people unemployed and looking for a job, or underemployed and looking to land the job they want," Petion said. "Our ability to tailor an individual's needs to our services is what makes a difference."

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