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GUARDIAN

Possible on-site hiring at re-entry job fair

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If you have background issues that keep you from finding employment, don't worry because at the Re-Entry Community Job and Resource Fair there will be employers willing to hire eligible applicants with background issues and other barriers to employment.

The fair will be held from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Monday at GNV Commons, formerly known as Lot 10 at 100 SW First Ave. in downtown Gainesville at the corner of Southwest First Avenue and Second Street.

Some employers at the job fair will hire on site and have done so at past job fairs, while some employers don't hire on site, said Linda Cue, librarian of the Alachua County Library District's headquarters branch in downtown Gainesville.

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

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

Cherie Kelly, Library Partnership Resource Center manager, recommends job seekers not be shy about talking to the employers and taking the opportunity to tell their story, be truthful and ready to discuss their skills and goals.

Kelly said more than 18 employers have registered for the job fair.

To prepare job seekers for success as they navigate the job fair, the Alachua County Library District and Partnership for Strong Families in collaboration with community partners presented the fifth Re-Entry Partnership Conference, held May 10-13 at various locations online and in person, including the Library Partnership Resource Center, 912 NE 16 Ave., UF TREEO Center, 3600 SW 63 Blvd. behind Kanapaha Botanical Gardens and at Forest Pines Community Center, 1027 NE 25th St.

The conference was facilitated by experts who shared their knowledge and tips to help participants build skills and access resources.

Topics discussed during the conference included employability skills, career mapping, overcoming barriers to success, gig economies, entrepreneurship and small businesses and more, said James Schindler, coordinator of career and job placement at Santa Fe College.

“A successful entrepreneur finds a niche, something that is needed but not available,” Schindler said. “The gig economy allows access to an unprecedented number of people.”

Christina Metts, who plans to start a painting business, said she attended all four workshops and received information and resources she needed to get started on her painting business. She said she learned many things, such as making a business plan, and not having to buy ads for her business because she can go online and not incur advertising costs.

“I’ve been to all four conferences and learned a lot from all the workshops,” Metts said. “Whatever you need — they help you. They provide resources for everything you may need.”

Cue and Rachel Cook, public relations and marketing manager at the Library District, offered tips for participants to be ready for the job fair.

They recommended bringing several copies of an updated resume, and coming dressed in business casual attire. Men should wear slacks or dress pants, tucked-in buttoned dress shirts or Polo shirts and loafers or dress shoes. They suggest women wear knee-length skirts and dresses, dress slacks, shirts, blouses, dress shoes and conservative, well-groomed hair.

Cue said you should be honest about your barriers to employment and not be shy to discuss your goals.

A clothing closet will be available from 2-4 p.m. Mondays and 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Thursdays at the Library Partnership Resource Center at 912 NE 16th Ave. Those interested in scheduling a mock interview can contact Kelly at 352-334-0160.