

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE *Changing Lives*

When you support Extension, over 1,000 job seekers gained skills needed to compete in today's workplaces and acquire jobs.



"Job Club provided support and new ideas for the job seeker. Losing a job in a society equals losing identity, never mind the practical concerns. Job Club offered concrete suggestions and ideas to move the search for a new position forward. The proverbial journey of 1,000 steps begins with the first one. Job Club pointed me toward a path that led to change, growth, and at last, work!" - Former Job Club Member

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<http://fayette.ca.uky.edu/>
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Extension Focuses on Skills to Finding Employment through Job Club

Fayette County Extension, the UK Alumni Association and UK Human Resource Career Development nurture an environment that builds self-esteem and confidence for job seekers recreating themselves in an online society.



extension.ca.uky.edu

“Job Club is a great resource for anyone who is either looking for a job or contemplating a new career. It is a great opportunity to learn job search skills, and an invaluable chance to network with other job seekers to learn and share ideas. I recently obtained a new position utilizing skills that I learned through Job Club.” - Kaye Smith

“Conducting a job search can be a lonely and discouraging journey,” one Job Club participant stated. To address the issue of unemployment and underemployment, the Fayette County Cooperative Extension Service collaborated with the University of Kentucky (UK) Alumni Association and UK Human Resources Staff Career Development to initiate the Central Kentucky Job Club in 2013. The purpose of the Job Club is to provide a positive environment for motivated job seekers to meet, connect, share and learn. Job Club targets adults currently out of work, underemployed or looking to make a career transition. In addition, recruiters and employers attend the programs or send announcements of open positions. The free, bi-monthly programs are open to the public and have attracted participants from eight central Kentucky counties.

At each Job Club program, newcomers are welcomed with introductory resources. The program begins with small group networking opportunities, personal 30 second commercials followed by an advertised presentation. The presentations include specific job search skills, personal development, financial management, accessing resources, and panels of former participants.

Since beginning the Job Club in 2013, 1026 job seekers and over 100 employment recruiters have attended. Eighty-six percent of past participants who responded to a follow-up survey reported improving their employability skills as a result of Job Club. The



“Losing my job because of the company filing bankruptcy was devastating. Job Club gave me invaluable help with my resume/cover letter as well as interview and networking skills.” - Former Job Club Member



“Losing my job was more difficult than my battle with cancer. The encouraging environment of Job Club helped me maintain a positive attitude to secure employment.” Former Job Club Member

respondents considered the following parts of the Job Club Program as most beneficial: online job searching and searching LinkedIn, networking, establishing a budget, mock interviews, and reviewing resumes. Fifty-seven percent of these respondents reported securing a job.

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