

Finding a job through unconventional means

By Becky A Cole

Once in a while I will check out the job postings on Craigslist to see what is there. Just as with any site, you have to take some of it with a grain of salt and sort through what is there as a legitimate job and what are the scams. If it looks like it could be a real job, but they don't give the name of the company, I first send an inquiry to say I am interested in learning more about the position, but as a matter of personal policy, I don't send resumes to a blind ad. If it is legitimate, they will respond with company information and more information about the job.

Recently, I did this and I got a response back that has a lot of opportunity for me. I sent the inquiry late one evening. This company did respond by email the previous evening, but I had already signed off and didn't see it. They called me at 8:00 am the next morning and asked if I could start right away.

I asked if they didn't at least want to see my resume or call any references, and I was surprised by the response. When they got my inquiry, the program manager looked me up on LinkedIn and said she liked what she saw there, so from that, she was confident I could do the job. I still sent my resume and some references because the information on LinkedIn is limited, but it didn't change her mind about wanting me for this job.

Given that the last article I wrote was on paying attention to the public information that is out there, **this is proof that it does matter what other people can see about you.**

Another lesson to be learned in this is that it is ok to go off the main path of job searching and check out some nooks and crannies to see what is there. Add it to your overall job search strategy.

However, whatever you do, don't confuse unconventional with un-

professional. I've heard about someone who, when he went to a company to interview, he would leave a "thank you" note (written before he went) and a piece of chocolate with the receptionist as he left the building. That is unconventional, but still leaves your integrity in place.

Unconventional is responding to a blind ad, but still remaining professional by not sending my resume until I am convinced it is a legitimate job.

Unprofessional would be telling your life story to the receptionist – even if you did leave the chocolate, or just sending out a resume without concern for who gets it.

You just never know when or how a job opportunity will show up, so make sure your job search strategy keeps doors open for possibilities.

Do you have a story about an unconventional method you have used that has been successful? Drop me a line and let me know what you have done.

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