

4 Tips to Successfully Re-enter the Workforce

Categories : [CANDIDATE CONNECTION](#)

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It has become much more commonplace for people to voluntarily drop out of the workforce at least once during their career. While historically, women have put their careers on hold to care for their young children, today's workforce has many other personal demands that have to be attended to. Aging parents, the need for post-secondary education, stress and burnout, layoffs, relocation for spouse / significant other are just a few reasons why you may need to drop out and then re-enter the workforce.

Unemployment – no matter the reason – can be demoralizing. It can also be hard on the wallet. Our profession is a way for us to pay the bills, and it is key source to our identity. Therefore, it is important to keep yourself relevant in order to successfully re-enter the workforce. Here are 4 tips to help you do just that:

1. Maintain professional network

Maintain your professional network, and build up your personal network, beyond immediate friends and family. Your network can include alumni (both high school and college), people you know from your place of worship, other members of a support group (i.e. mom's club, caretakers' support group), or a group of people who share the same hobby or interest (such as your kids' sports). The key is to get out there and meet people. Many new jobs have been had simply by talking to someone in the bleachers of a football game or on the sidelines of a soccer match.

2. Continue to build skills

The world moves fast. There are industries where just stepping out of the workforce for even a year can cause skill atrophy. Therefore, look for opportunities to build your skillset. Take some courses or earn extra certifications (many can be done online). Take on projects, either in your community or for local businesses. Doing this not only helps [you fill gaps in your resume](#), but it also shows prospective employers that you are always looking to improve yourself.

In addition to building professional skills, work on personal skills. Job seekers have taught themselves how to weld or restore old cars during their time off. Not only is this emotionally rewarding, it could offer a brand new bankable job skill.

3. Volunteer

If you drop out of the workforce, you may feel that you do not have enough time to volunteer. However, in just the same way that many employers are moving to a flexible work schedules, many charities have a variety of jobs that can be done in the same type of manner. There are also numerous weekend opportunities available. These types of volunteer opportunities can be a great way to (again) fill gaps in your resume and show off project management skills, home repair skills, or communication skills. It is also a great way to network and add references to your resume as well.

4. Sign up with a staffing firm for temporary work

One of the best ways to fill gaps in a resume or keep your skills up-to-date is to work with a reputable staffing firm that can help you locate short-term (or long-term) temporary work assignments. Local companies need quality workers for a variety of reasons, many of which could fit your schedule and needs.

At Snelling, we regularly work with people who are actively trying to re-enter the workforce. If you are in this situation OR you simply would like to earn some extra money through temporary work assignments, locate your [local Snelling office today](#). And let's get to work!