

Assisting Your New Grad with the Job Search

As parents, guardians and family of graduates facing the job market, what can you do to assist your new graduate in transitioning from the secure world of classes and residence halls to the unknown reality of what lies ahead? Here are some suggestions!

1. Ask how you can help

Your new graduate may have specific ideas about ways you can assist. Your editing skills may be the second pair of eyes needed to critique a resume; your managerial skills could be useful as a mock interviewer; your research skills might uncover some new job leads. Think about how your own professional and personal skills can be of assistance. Don't be pushy though, let your new grad take the lead.

2. Suggest a visit to the Career Center

The career center provides a wealth of job search resources—job postings, career fairs, resume assistance and career counseling, just to name a few. Make sure your new grad is aware of the office. Lenoir-Rhyne University offers career services free for life to all LR alumni. Whether they are close by, or across the world, we can offer assistance - in person and virtual appointments are available.

3. Offer networking contacts

Networking is one of the most effective ways to find a job. With your grad's permission, talk to your co-workers about your new graduate's job search. Discuss it with neighbors and friends. You never know who may know of a job opportunity.

4. Be ready to hear new ideas

Your new grad may mention attending graduate school or raise a new career goal. Listen to new ideas with an open mind, making positive suggestions when appropriate. Ask open-ended questions to show your new grad that you're interested—and the answers will help your new grad think through the new ideas.

5. Provide a sounding board when frustrations overflow

The nightly news about unemployment is stressful. Imagine trying to complete your studies and conduct a job search, too. If your student calls to talk, but really needs to vent, listen. Sometimes the best thing you can say is nothing at all.

6. Give an early graduation present with the job search in mind

Don't wait until May to say congratulations. Now is a great time to give a graduation present that will be used during the job search and first year on the job. Looking for ideas? Interview and professional outfits, briefcases and padfolios can be great gifts for the new grad.

7. Reassure your new grad that a tough job market is temporary

The ebb and flow of the economy is constant, and brighter days lie ahead. You've likely experienced similar ups and downs. Convey your experience to your new grad.

8. Look and listen for signs of depression

If your student talks about skipping class, exhaustion or loss of appetite, they might need some help. If your student is still on campus, contact appropriate campus representatives (residence life, student support and outreach, counseling and wellness), for assistance.

9. Remind your new grad that you are proud of their accomplishments.

A rough economy should not take away the success of earning a college degree. Be sure your new grad knows that you are proud of this achievement. Send a card or make a phone call to specifically convey this message.

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