

Northeast Minnesota Fall 2020 Virtual Job / Career Fair A Success!!

Connecting employers and job seekers safely during a state of emergency is no easy task, but staff at the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training (NEMOJT) challenged themselves to do just that. On October 27, 28, and 29, over 900 job seekers connected virtually with 74 employers in northeast Minnesota using a virtual job fair platform.

What made this job fair stand out above others is that it was planned and implemented by career counselors. “We knew there was a need because we have been hearing from both job seekers and employers. Despite what you may hear, people want to work and employers are looking for workers,” said Amanda Voller, NEMOJT Career Counselor. Staff incorporated the feedback they received and created an event that benefitted both parties. What drew job seekers to the event is that they were able to upload their resumes, have them reviewed by professional career counselors, and then share them with employers.

Employers and colleges were able to live chat with visitors. “We were pleasantly surprised by the number of visitors to our booth,” said Katherine Stolp, Director of Admissions and Recruitment, Lake Superior College. “The visitors were engaged, had great questions, and had watched our video. We have participated in a lot of fairs and this one had by far the most interaction we have had.”

Another component of this event included twenty-two high schools that registered “We wanted to engage high school students as this is the future of job searching,” said Dave Cook, NEMOJT Career Counselor. Over 140 individuals visited the 218 Trades booth, which highlighted jobs and training opportunities. “When students ask questions and send their resumes, the fair did what it set out to do.”

The Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training helps thousands of Minnesotans get ahead every year. Local, professional career counselors work with people ranging from just starting out in the labor force to seasoned professionals who may be facing change in their chosen field and need a new start. The Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training provides a wide range of free individualized services, including personal one-to-one career counseling, occupational and job search skills training, and helping job seekers find new or different job opportunities.

Plans for another virtual job fair are in the works for the spring. To learn more about the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training and the services that are offered to job seekers and employers, go to www.nemojt.org.