

2005 Graduates: A Healthier Career Climate

(NAPSA)—This year's college graduates face a better job market compared to the past few years—more employers are hiring and entry-level job seeker sentiment is confident. According to the leading career site for college students and alumni, 64 percent of employers plan to hire 2005 graduates this year, and 83 percent of 2005 graduates expect to receive at least one job offer upon graduation (compared to last year's survey, which showed that 51 percent of college seniors didn't expect a single offer).

However, grads shouldn't just sit back and relax; the competition for jobs still remains strong, with more people graduating from college than ever. Smart seekers will get organized early and allot a certain amount of time each week to job searching.

"The most successful entry-level job seekers tackle the search with gusto and creativity," said Michelle Forker, senior vice president, Monster Campus. "Grads should diversify their job search by not only scanning online job postings, but also attending career fairs and workshops and tapping into their network of friends, classmates, colleagues and professors."

Graduates should also utilize their on-campus career centers to help guide a job search, tailor resumes and set up interviews. In addition, use these strategies to increase the chances that you'll find, and land, a satisfying first job:

- No employment history? New grads without traditional work experience should include an "Experience" section on their resume rather than "Employment." Volunteer positions, class projects and independent study fit into this category and will show employers work ethic and ambition.

- Mock interviews. After the resume has been tweaked and the



application sent, practice those interviewing skills with family and friends. Entry-level seekers should be able to provide a concise overview of their background and thoughtful answers about why they are interested in a particular company.

- Research, research, research. In today's information age, there is no excuse for going into an interview without properly researching a company. Investigating corporate Web sites as well as online databases of corporate profiles, such as Hoover's, is a great way to learn about prospective employers.

- Don't give up! If you're not getting the results you desire, try a new strategy. Consider taking an internship; 59 percent of 2005 grads surveyed have already completed at least one. It's a valuable way to get a behind-the-scenes glimpse into your desired field and increase your chances of getting a full-time position with that company.

Most importantly, start this new life phase with an open mind, and be ready for the many challenges ahead. It's the beginning of a great ride.

For a range of entry-level career management resources including job search tips, alumni networks and targeted job postings, visit www.MonsterTRAK.com.