

# Career Opportunities

## A Fresh Start

(NAPSA)—Pursuing a career doesn't have to be frustrating, even in a tough economic environment. It may pay, however, to be vigilant toward new opportunities and experiences and take a fresh look at your aspirations.

In today's market, it is crucial for job seekers to be creative and continually mindful of their professional path.

To start, write a statement that encompasses who you are (or want to be) professionally and personally. Use this statement as a guiding force in pursuing your career.

Looking for employment is a full-time job in itself. If you're only dedicating a few hours a week to your search, kick things up a notch. You should actually spend more time looking for work than you would at an actual job. Finding a suitable job in today's economy—one that is both challenging and rewarding—may take months. The key is to focus, be patient and keep moving forward.

Expand your horizons. Certain sectors such as government and healthcare are in dire need of talent. For example, 53 percent of government employees are eligible to retire in five years, coupled with the creation of 250,000 new jobs by 2004. In addition, according to the Labor Statistics Bureau, one million nursing jobs will be available by 2010. In fact, there are now over 120,000 open positions for registered nurses nationwide today.

Surprising to many job-seekers is how government and healthcare jobs can be found at all career lev-



**If you're currently employed, it's important to keep the momentum going, especially in today's unpredictable economy.**

els and across a breadth of industries, including positions requiring experience in finance, IT and science. Furthermore, the skilled and hourly marketplace, which represents 54 percent of the U.S. workforce, is booming, with jobs available in many areas, including service, retail, banking, manufacturing and trucking.

Consider your current job a stepping-stone to the next. Select projects that cultivate your talents. What tasks will teach you new skills and help you network? Quantify accomplishments in the ongoing resumé you're compiling.

With the recent launch of its national skilled and hourly initiative, Monster has job opportunities for workers across all industries. For additional tips, visit [www.monster.com](http://www.monster.com).

Lastly, ask yourself if you're really doing what you want to do. If a career assessment is in order for you, make it a priority.