

How can you help your college student make the transition from college to career?

Note: Job searching and landing a job after students' graduate starts earlier than their senior year.

Some suggestions:

- **Inquire as to how you can help.**
Your student may have ideas about ways you can assist them. Your editing skills may be helpful in critiquing a resume; your own managerial skills could be useful in a mock interview; your research skills might uncover new job leads. What role could you take in this situation, other than parent, in order to be helpful? Let the student take the lead.
- **Suggest a visit to Business Career Center.**
The Business Career Center office provides many resources in office and online: job postings, internship and full time opportunities, resume assistance, mock interviews, workshops, employer site visits, just to name a few. *Make sure your student is aware of the Business Career Center office, as well as TU Career Services.*
- **Offer networking opportunities.**
Networking is the most effective way to find jobs. With your college student's permission, talk to your co-workers about your son's or daughter's job search. Discuss it with your neighbors and friends. You may be surprised who might know of a job opportunity.
- **Be receptive to new ideas.**
Your student may mention attending graduate school. Or, he or she may decide that marketing fits them better than accounting. Listen to the new ideas your student shares with you, making positive suggestions when appropriate. Ask open-ended questions to show your student that you are interested. The answers will help your student think through the new ideas being considered.
- **Be a good listener when frustrations overflow.**
Nightly news about unemployment can be stressful. Imagine trying to complete studies and conduct a job search. If your student calls to talk, but they really need to vent, listen to them.
- **Present your student with an early graduation present with the job search in mind.**
Do not wait until graduation to congratulate your student. Now is a great time to give a graduation gift that will be useful during the job search and first year on the job. Suggestions include: portfolios, memory sticks, and even a new interview suit.
- **Watch and listen for signs of depression.**
If your son or daughter talks about being exhausted, skipping class, or loss of appetite, he or she may need some help. Campus representatives, such as the Office of Student Affairs, could help.
- **Remind your future graduate that you are proud of his or her accomplishments.**
Earning a college degree is a success, even in an unsteady economy. Make sure your student is aware of the pride you take in their accomplishment. Sending a card or making a phone call are ways of conveying this message.

For more information about our events, please review our calendar of events.

(Source: Adapted from JobWeb.com/Kelli Robinson)