



Career fair appeals to the IT sector

LJ Matheson

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It was a match made in Nepean.

Not only was it a dream come true for job seekers in the information technology (IT) sector but it was a perfect opportunity to recruiters from some 40 local companies to meet with potential employees at the Nepean Sportplex on May 19.

The fourth annual :ITO 2.0 career fair was a chance for those looking for work to meet potential bosses in a comfortable setting.

"I love this atmosphere because it takes away the formality and the pressure of having a one-on-one interview," said Christine Dalrymple, a resident of Carleton Place who handed out all 15 of her resumes, including to Microsoft's Bryan Clayton. "I'm looking for a project management type of position and meeting people here is a great way for them to meet me in person."

Clayton said Microsoft has over 100 positions across Canada they are looking to fill.

"It's not just technology... it's relationship building. This (career fair) is the meeting place between the people and technology," Clayton said. "From a job seeker's point of view, it's less intimidating and not as stressful."

Networking, making connections in the technology industry and making the right fits are criteria that Karen Yates of :ITO 2.0 knows all about. She's been the team's employer consultant for the past 10 years. As such, she liaises with I.T. company managers and those seeking employment.

"It's about sending out the invitations to employers to get them here to the career fair and then opening the doors to those people who are looking to make that job connection," she said.

For Kanata's Anna Dolisini, diving back into the workforce has been somewhat of a stressful time. Since being laid off from Nortel in 2002, she's only had contract positions.

"I'm looking for something fulltime," said Dolisini, who has been working with :ITO 2.0 to hone her resume, explore her career options, access other employment opportunities and obtain job placement help. "I have been doing a lot of job training with :ITO 2.0 and they've been wonderful."

She added that looking for full time employment has been hard, "but hopefully, I see the market changing so there will be more opportunities."

Dolisini says she's thankful for career fairs like this one where she has been able to get out and meet managers and recruiters who may have a place for her in their company. "The nice thing about this job fair is that :ITO 2.0 does all the marketing studies and they relay back to us – the employees – what they are looking for and it helps me focus my skills."

Nepean's William Moss says it's a good place to see what the market is looking like. He too is a former Nortel employee who has been working through a lot of contract positions for the past few years.

"Today is an opportunity for me to follow up with some potential employers," he said. "I will send out some more resumés and get some leads on my next contract, which will hopefully turn into fulltime employment."

The :ITO 2.0 career fair organizers were expecting to see more than 2,000 people come through the doors. According to Fred Nesrallah, media spokesperson, said the event is a chance for perspective employees to have an on-the-spot interview.

"Many who visit will be in jobs already, but a lot will be out of work," he said. "We have seen a lot of college and university graduates as well as job seekers from across the city. These companies here today are actually all hiring and this event is one where we can help fill some of those voids."

For over 10 years, :ITO 2.0 has been a service provider of knowledge based labour market intelligence as well as specialized career /training strategies bridging the skills gap between industry employers and high tech job seekers. :ITO 2.0 provides a wide variety of services to both employers as well as job seekers including labour market intelligence, labour force adjustment, outplacement, career transition services, industry recruitment and career event services.

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