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# Chautauqua Works

americanjobcenter®

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## Executive Director's Message



ular, professional and service groups in our community have risen to the occasion and have tried to keep everyone as safe as possible. Health care and essential workers have faced the virus head-on. We are thankful to them for their commitment to their work and our well-being.

The year 2020 has been like no other we have seen in our lifetime. It has been months of wearing face masks, washing our hands, and keeping our distance from family and friends. Businesses, schools, colleges, and organizations have also pivoted to meet the required mandates to keep the virus at bay.

Twenty-twenty has played on our emotions for many of us. There are some bright shimmers of hope. In partic-

ular, professional and service groups in our community have risen to the occasion and have tried to keep everyone as safe as possible. Health care and essential workers have faced the virus head-on. We are thankful to them for their commitment to their work and our well-being.

There is hope in the newly developed COVID vaccines and through all of this pandemic everyone has learned to adapt. Like all of you the staff at Chautauqua Works has made appropriate safety preparations and welcomes you to schedule an appointment. They are ready to help you with your resume, cover letter, job search, career development and discuss training opportunities with you. Everyone wants to re-

store some normalcy in their lives.

As you welcome in 2021, know that Chautauqua Works can be one of your avenues to a new job or a future career. Once our county begins vaccinating the general population, we will be on the path of getting our economy back on track. Now is a good time to start planning for 2021.

Chautauqua Works is here to help you get back to work. Staff is not able to help with Unemployment Insurance (UI) questions. You will need to call **1.888.209.8124** or utilize the website at [www.labor.ny.gov](http://www.labor.ny.gov) for assistance

Stay informed. Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Chautauqua-Works->

## Need a job? CW is scheduling appointments.

This past year has been a rough one for everyone. Covid-19 has turned most people's lives upside down from their work life, child care responsibilities, panic buying, remote school and college learning plus trying to stay safe from this deadly virus.

Help is on the way with a vaccine but we still need to practice safe health care to avoid being exposed and getting the Corona virus. The economy will get better. That is what we all hope. As the new year approaches, why not look towards your future and do

what you can to get your work life back on track. Chautauqua Works staff are here to help you explore your career options.

To schedule an appointment call **716.661.9553** to connect with a career development specialist for their help and assistance.

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## Do you receive SSDI/SSI and want to go back to work?

Do you receive disability benefits and would like to get a job? The Ticket to Work (TTW) program can help you.

Social Security's Ticket to Work Program supports career development for Social Security disability beneficiaries age 18 through 64 who want to work. The Ticket Program is free and voluntary. The program helps people with disabilities

progress toward financial independence. Individuals who receive Social Security benefits because of a disability and are age 18 through 64 probably already qualify for the program.

The Ticket program is a good fit for people who want to improve their earning potential and are committed to preparing for long-term success in the workplace. The TTW program offers

beneficiaries with disabilities access to meaningful employment with the assistance of Ticket to Work employment service providers called Employment Networks (EN).

For assistance in this program call Lori Fabritius at **716.487.5127** to schedule an appointment.

To receive messages from CW: <https://www.facebook.com/Chautauqua-Works280188958769133/>

**“Professional in approach to help you find a job, friendly, courteous people who want you to succeed!”**

**Jobseeker Quote on Facebook**

## 4 job skills you need to succeed in a post COVID world

We're all acutely aware of the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting the world and each of our lives. In fact, it's hard to envision a facet of daily living that hasn't been affected by it, including the world of work. Many people have been unable to go into their workplaces to perform their job responsibilities. Others are experiencing a rapid shift in how they do their jobs as they move towards remote working. Millions have been laid off or furloughed by their employers. Workers and companies across all sectors are facing a challenging and uncertain future. As we try to make our way, we wonder what work will be like in a post-COVID world and what skills we'll need to master to succeed on the other side of this pandemic. Let's take a closer look!

### 1. Flexibility

One element that's certain in the work world moving forward is uncertainty. Companies and employees need to expect the unexpected and have the ability to pivot gracefully in response to unforeseen events and challenges.

### 2. Innovative thinking

In the post-COVID world, it'll be more important than ever before for employees to be able to think of innovative approaches to work tasks and getting things done.

### 3. Comfort with technology

Smart companies across industries will emerge from the pandemic with a renewed appreciation for employees with the requisite tech skills to be able to perform a wide variety of evolving work tasks from anywhere using the latest

and greatest technology—and you better believe that this will factor into their hiring strategies moving forward.

### 4. Professional maturity

The COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging for all of us. It forced us to practice a high level of personal and professional maturity to stay focused, make the best of the challenging situation.

The coronavirus has forced many of us into uncomfortable positions but we have proved to be resilient. We have adapted to the needed changes that we had to make these past eleven (11) months. This test has forced us to be flexible and pivot when needed, be creative and innovated to survive, appreciate our tech skills, and to display maturity as the world reels forward.

\*\*Adapted from post 4 job skills you need to succeed in a post-COVID world appeared first on TheJobNetwork.

## Job Hunting During COVID-19

The competition when you apply for a job has dramatically increased. Job hunters are complaining about getting 5, 6, or even eight interviews before the company can make up their mind. And as rude as it is, sometimes the employer does not even respond to you until *you ask them if they've decided* after all those interviews.

What is the most effective way to job hunt now? Networking has been and still is the best

way to land a new job. Seventy percent of all jobs are never advertised so it makes sense to ask family, friends, neighbors and former colleagues for help. Begin by making a list of people you can ask for help. Next, know the job you want and reach out to your network, asking for help. Using your contacts to ask for referrals to hiring managers, HR, or a recruiter pays off.

How has job searching changed? Online applicants are the norm so be prepared to do

your applications online. Because of COVID-19, your initial meeting with an employer may be by telephone or via a Zoom meeting. First impressions are important so make sure that you know how to use this technology. Have work stories ready about your accomplishments to tell the interviewer. You can prepare a 30 second elevator pitch on why you are the perfect candidate for the job. Job hunting takes longer so don't get discouraged stay with it, your next job is waiting.

## Career Development: Let's explore Some Careers

When exploring a new career it is important to learn as much as you can before making your choice. Some careers require college degrees, some require hands-on training, and others may require licenses or certifications or both.

To be happy in your chosen career, it is best do a self assessment of your abilities, skills, interests, likes and dislikes. This assessment tool will help you discover your interests and work values:  
<https://www.careerzone.ny.gov/views/careerzone/guesttool/qa.jsf> (Copy and paste into your browser)

These weblinks can help you explore various careers. Both links provide job descriptions, education and training needed, salary ranges, job outlook, and can assist you in your research.

Once you have the information that you need, you need to

choose the type of career you want to pursue. Will it be off to college or getting into hands-on training like an apprenticeship program? Either choice you make will require for you to work hard, and put your best effort forward.

Only you can decide what is your best path. There is value in obtaining a college degree. The many benefits resulting from college education usually justifies the money spent obtaining a degree. Although wages between high school and college graduates often does not vary significantly until after years of work experience is acquired, college graduates usually earn more money during their working lives than people with only high school diplomas. The U.S. Census Bureau has reported that those with bachelor's degrees earn nearly 2 million dollars, associ-

ate's degrees nearly 1.5 million dollars, and high school diplomas nearly 1.2 million dollars during their careers.

If going to college is not an option for you, a blue-collar career might be your best choice. Careers in these areas tend to be physical; think carpenter, electrician, and plumber. Plus wages are good and these jobs are rewarding.

Apprenticeships enable you to learn through on-the-job training in many skilled trades. During an apprenticeship, you'll spend a few years (or more) working alongside an experienced tradesperson, earning money and learning all the skills you need to know. Women are also entering these fields.

Once the apprenticeship is complete, you become a journeyman, which means you'll be a fully qualified tradesperson.

**Chautauqua Works helped 95 job seekers to get hired with SKF Aero engine this year!**

## LOCATIONS

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# Chautauqua Works

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## How to Move Forward After Being Laid Off

Once you've been laid off from your job, it is important to prepare a strategy for coping with being out of work by managing your finances and eventually finding employment again. Although being laid off can feel isolating, many people have gone through the process of recovering from a sudden layoff and there are plenty of resources available to help you take control of your situation.

Following these steps after losing your job can help you recover from a layoff, allowing you to leverage the time as an opportunity for growth:

1. Give yourself time to mourn
2. File for unemployment
3. Practice self-care
4. Draw up a budget
5. Reassess your goals
6. Reach out to your network for job leads
7. Contact Chautauqua Works

## Reasons to check out Chautauqua Works' Facebook Page

1. Job postings from employers seeking new employees.
2. Facebook Live Events on various topics, e.g., resume writing; interviewing; searching for jobs when you have a disability; and choosing your career path.
3. Videos of past FB Live events to be watched at your convenience.
4. Inspirational posts for motivation.
5. Job search articles from experts to help you as you look for your next position.