

Jobs vs Careers

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SPEAKERS

Janet Maltbie, Marica Jones

Janet Maltbie 00:03

From the campus of Lorain County Community College, this is the Career Conversations podcast on LCCC radio.com The boom, I'm Janet Maltbie. Today in our podcast we focus on springboard or static jobs, and how you can jumpstart your career by focusing on jobs that lead to opportunities, not dead ends. With me today is my special guest Marcia Jones. Marcia is the career services manager at Lorain County Community College. For nearly 20 years, Marcia has helped students learn about careers, and how to link their education to job experiences, so they can launch from a job into a meaningful career. Welcome to the program. Marcia Jones.

Marica Jones 00:49

Thank you for having me. Janet,

Janet Maltbie 00:51

You've been helping students for decades now.

Marica Jones 00:54

I have been. That's pretty startling to think about.

Janet Maltbie 01:00

How can students make wise career choices?

Marica Jones 01:03

That's a good question. It really starts with themselves, and really understanding themselves and learning as much as they can about themselves and what their skills and abilities are, where their interests lie. And also, understanding what their financial needs are for the future for their family. It really takes some reflection, self reflection and some research to begin to put all those pieces together.

Janet Maltbie 01:31

Yeah, and I don't find that students often start there.

Marica Jones 01:35

Right, they often want to jump forward, right and go right into a job. I mean, all of us have to work right to support ourselves and our families, but often, many of us and not just students don't take the time, right to just really step back, do a little bit of reflecting and do some research, to try and identify those skills and abilities and those areas of interest and then match it to careers.

Janet Maltbie 02:04

Right. What do you think is the difference between a job and a career,

Marica Jones 02:08

A career really does take some forethought, some planning, you need a little bit of intentionality. We're not saying jobs are bad. And it's okay if you have what you consider just to be a job. But when you begin to think about your career, you also can begin to think about what you can do with your current job that could potentially help you start moving in a direction you'd like to go. And that could apply to any job that you have. There are ways that you can begin to look for, you know, building the skills that you need, gaining those skills, and experiences along the way that will help you move towards a career,

Janet Maltbie 02:53

Right, so some jobs can be better than others. Okay? Let's start with getting some definitions about what the difference is between a static job and a springboard job. Give us an example of a static job.

Marica Jones 03:11

Oh, that's a good one. Medical Assisting, you can get into with maybe some college or credential. But there aren't a lot of opportunities to advance beyond that without additional education or training. So you probably will be in a medical assisting type of job indefinitely. So while Medical Assisting is a good job and can be a good job, it's an idea of what else it takes them to sort of move beyond that.

Janet Maltbie 03:52

Yeah. Like, I think that static jobs can be almost any job. If it doesn't lead to something else for you. For instance, if you really, really want to be a teacher, okay, and you decide that you are going to do bartending, right. And because the money is there, right, and you could potentially earn a lot of a lot of tips from that. But for you, that might be a static job, because it's not going to lead you to where you want to go, right. Am I am I going in the right direction with that

Marica Jones 04:32

Exactly. And building off of that idea of a bartender, that could be a springboard job as well. As you are working as that bartender, you're networking with people, you're making connections, you're having conversations with people that might offer different opportunities. Maybe you really excel at that and then you move into a managerial position within that restaurant. out or you know, you think about opening up your own restaurant or bar. So it's not so much the job that defines it in terms of it being a static job, or a springboard job, but more about how you approach it and what you do with it.

Janet Maltbie 05:17

So if a person is in a static job right now, they're wanting to launch their career. How can Career Services help?

Marica Jones 05:25

Well, remember back to the beginning of our conversation, when I was talking about sort of taking some time for yourself to identify your strengths, your skills, your abilities, Career Services can be very helpful in that either by meeting with one of us individually, we have my plan, which is a tool that is available online. So you could do it from the comfort of your home, wherever you have internet access, you could take a short career assessment to help you begin to generate some new ideas that maybe you haven't already considered. And then sit down with a career development specialists to sort that all out and process some of what you've learned about yourself. Once you sort of have that figured out, we're there to help you begin to figure out how you gain some experience towards that career that you're thinking about right now, through work based learning. Paid internships are an excellent way to begin to gain that experience, test out a career, which is critical, find out if you'd like it before you've invested two years or four years or six years in an education, only to get out and find out that it isn't what you thought it was. Get out, get some experience along the way. And that often is paid experience that is helping to pay those bills that can be that Springboard job along the way. But also provide you the opportunity to just determine whether it is indeed a really good fit for you or not.

Janet Maltbie 07:00

Right. And I think the key is to don't go it alone.

Marica Jones 07:04

Absolutely. And not just Career Services. There are lots of people here on campus at LCCC, who are ready and willing to talk to you, your academic advisors, your faculty, your friends that are in internships, talk to them, find out what they're doing, and how they got into their internships, right?

Janet Maltbie 07:25

It's so important to talk to people because you don't know what you don't know. Absolutely, you don't know about a lot of the opportunities and there are a ton out there, there is going to be many, many occupations and careers that will come about because of the pandemic, that are just gonna come on the horizon, and you need to talk with people about it.

Marica Jones 07:49

One of my favorite career development theories is planned happenstance. And it's all about being prepared, really to take advantage of opportunities as they're presented and, and being curious about the art of the possible, right. So really being prepared.

Janet Maltbie 08:12

Yeah. And you don't know until you put yourself out there. And you start asking questions, being curious and being willing to do some research, and especially now, there's so many things on the horizon. And actually, I think, Marcia, it's just an exciting time to live.

Marica Jones 08:31

It really is. It really is.

Janet Maltbie 08:33

Marcia Jones, thank you so much for taking the time to speak with me today.

Marica Jones 08:37

Thank you, Janet.

Janet Maltbie 08:42

Making the transition from a static to a springboard job can be daunting. Don't go it alone. Reach out to Career Services today by going to lorainccc.edu/career-services, or by calling 440-366-4076. The number again is 440-366-4076. This program has been brought to you by enrollment, financial and Career Services of Lorain County Community College, and by the Ohio Department of Higher Education, Ohio Means internships and Co-Ops grant. Music provided by Danosongs, production assistance provided by LCCC radio.com The boom and their staff Dee Gross, Matt Melvin and Tim Bradley. You've been listening to the career conversations podcast on LCCC radio.com Boom. I'm Janet maltbie. Thanks for listening.