



Metro

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Learn New Skills

Smart job searching today may be less a matter of surfing Internet job boards or networking for leads and more about reinvention.

In a shifting job market, repacking your skills is one of the best ways to market yourself. According to **Lynne O'Connor**, a 12-year career counseling veteran who has worked with some of the top career management firms in Toronto, this is a message job seekers need to keep firmly in mind.

“In-the-box, linear thinking gets job seekers in trouble every time,” says **O'Connor**.

By intentionally collecting diverse skill sets and seeking out new assignments, employees can learn to leverage even the small segments of expertise by wrapping it around their current strengths.

You just never know when that short accounting assignment or team leadership experience might come in handy. Not only will it allow you to add to your resume, it will enable you to work through concerns an employer might have about your ability to tackle new challenges.

Even limited exposure to a new skill or business area may be all that it takes to set you apart from the competition.

Don't make the mistake of relying on your current company to expand your knowledge base. As **O'Connor** asserts, **“People who are serious about broadening their career scope are busy taking night courses and strategically volunteering to build new capabilities. They know they need to build flexibility into their careers and they need to take that responsibility for themselves.”**