THE INSIDE TRACK ON CAREERS IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Keynote Address at the AIChE (Metro NY Section’s) Career Day at the Chem Show

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THE INSIDE TRACK ON CAREERS IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

“OK, wow me. Then impress me. Then dazzle me. Then maybe a little sadness. Then wow me again.”
Chemical engineering graduates use principles of chemistry, biology, physics and other engineering and technical disciplines in industries such as:
- Paper and pulp
- Chemical
- Petrochemical
- Semiconductors
- Pharmaceutical
- Textile manufacturers
- Consumer

Other graduates choose careers with government agencies or consulting firms that specialize in environmental regulations, pollution controls, microelectronics, and biotechnology.
### INDUSTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT

... and growing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Architecture, Engineering &amp; Related Services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>5,560</td>
<td>6,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Industry Employment</td>
<td>0.43%</td>
<td>0.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Chemical Manufacturing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>4,240</td>
<td>4,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Industry Employment</td>
<td>2.96%</td>
<td>3.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Research &amp; Development Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>3,310</td>
<td>3,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Industry Employment</td>
<td>0.52%</td>
<td>0.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resin, Synthetic Rubber, Artificial Synthetic &amp; Filaments Manufacturing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>2,110</td>
<td>2,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Industry Employment</td>
<td>2.31%</td>
<td>2.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petroleum &amp; Coal Product Manufacturing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>1,890</td>
<td>2,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Industry Employment</td>
<td>1.70%</td>
<td>2.44%</td>
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</table>

CAREER PATH POTENTIAL

**Technical Focus**
- **ENTRY LEVEL:**
  - Process Engineer, Plant Engineer
  - Quality, R&D
  - Manufacturing/Production
  - Technical Service

- **LARGER AREAS:**
  - Operations/Site EHS
  - Supply Chain
  - New Product Development

**Business Focus**
- **ENTRY LEVEL:**
  - Account Management
  - Product Management

- **LARGER AREAS:**
  - Business Management
  - GM/P&L Responsibility
  - Commercial Leader
Overall opportunities in engineering are expected to be good and employment is expected to grow 6% by 2020 as many individuals in this job will be retiring.

There will be employment growth in SERVICE PROVIDING industries:
- professional, scientific, and technical services opportunities
- research in energy and the developing fields of biotechnology and nanotechnology.

And even during economically low times, many engineers are contracted by companies to work on long-term research and development projects.

BE SURE to continue your education throughout your career, a lot of value to your employer depends on your knowledge of what’s hot in industry and how to create and work within the latest technologies.

THE RESUME: STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD

- Lose the objective statement – most people want to know what you are going to do for them, not what you are looking for from them.

- Have a summary statement which includes:
  - Any general accomplishments
  - Projects you’ve worked on for the new graduates and what you contributed

- Body of the resume:
  - Definitely do this in chronological order
  - QUANTIFY Responsibilities then achievements at every job (my clients complain that too many resumes look like job descriptions)

“So, it says here on your resume that you’re a giraffe.”
Education – make sure you include publications, certifications and awards

**DO NOT** HAVE A SUMMARY STATEMENT AND THEN LIST THE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT – EVERY HR PERSON I KNOW WILL TOSS THE RESUME

**DO NOT** WORRY ABOUT THE LENGTH OF YOUR RESUME – THE IDEA OF A ONE PAGE RESUME IS A MYTH
DOs OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- **DO** get the name of the hiring manager and the HR / Staffing Manager for the position.

- **DO** call them directly, and if they aren’t there leave a message referencing your interest in the position.

- **DO GET THEIR EMAIL**
  - How do you do this?
  - What do you say in the email

- **DO follow up with another phone call 3-5 days later**

**KEEP IT PERSONAL**
Be Prepared
- Specifics to the job description
- Go to their website; make sure you understand what they do and align that with your background
- KNOW YOUR RESUME

Phone Interview
- Have your materials in front of you while you are on the phone
- Make sure you give them 2 numbers in case one is not working
- Go somewhere you can focus as if it were a face to face; envision you being in the same room with them even though you are on the phone
- Emit ENERGY and PASSION
Face to Face Interview

- Take a few copies of your resume in case someone else unexpectedly stops in to also take part or if someone forgets theirs.
- Have the job description with your specifics written down (for reference so you don’t have to go back into your head)
- Have a few extras with you:
  - Writing samples if applicable
  - 30/60/90-Day action plan (for more senior level opportunities)
  - Anything else you think will impress them and is appropriate (e.g., references, recommendation letters, etc.)
When you are thinking about examples you want to use during interviewing ask yourself these questions to be able to get specific:

Who?
What?
When?
Where?
Why?
How?
AFTER THE INTERVIEW

- **Thank You Notes**
  - Get their email address or mailing address and send a thank you note to all with whom you interviewed!

- **Follow Up**
  - Always make sure you follow up again and give phone calls about a week after the interview
  - Remember, in your field there are probably 2-4 people interviewing so after the first follow up make sure you keep up with the interviewers.

- **Be Patient**

BE POLITE, BE PATIENT
BEST RESOURCES FOR JOB SEARCHES

- **http://www.chemicalengineer.com/**
  A Career Marketplace site since 1996. This site Focuses on Chemical Engineering jobs and careers and connects job seekers in related professions with employers and employment recruiters.

- **ChemEmploy at http://www.che.com/**
  A chemical engineering site that has a career center, ChemEmploy was constructed to help connect members with new employment opportunities.

- **Any industry websites**
  - American Chemical Society ([www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org))
  - American Institute of Chemical Engineers ([www.aiche.org](http://www.aiche.org))

- **Most university web sites**
BEST RESOURCES FOR JOB SEARCHES

- Industry-Specific Organizations
- LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com) career center and group jobs
- AiChe, ASQ, ACS, SPE,
- Internships / Coops
Jessica (Jess) Stinson, Senior Consultant
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Email: jess@centuryassociates.com