

## www.WHEC.com

### 600 job seekers attend career conference at MCC

Posted at: 01/18/2011 9:37 AM

Updated at: 01/18/2011 7:52 PM

By: Christine VanTimmeren



[RochesterWorks!](#) along with News 10NBC teamed up today for the annual greater Rochester career conference at MCC.

More than 800 people pre-registered for the event and approximately 600 people showed up looking for a job. With hundreds of people applying for each position, job seekers have to make themselves stand out.

James Schneider said, "I've upgraded my resume made some business cards. Cover letter, references, I made I sure I brought everything. And I'm also kind of selling the fact that I'm going to get my masters by the end of the year. So I think that will help me stick out from the rest of the people."

That's exactly what you have to do in these crowds -- make sure that when you leave, employers don't forget you.

Christina Bakewicz of RochesterWorks! said, "Simple things like maintaining eye contact, shaking a hand, leaving maybe a business card and follow up afterward."

"Personality is a big factor for us that we look for. Once we make that connection, they want to be a part of our team, not just an employee for us." As a human resource manager at Klein Steel, Rob Sihto knows exactly what he's looking for and what he's not. "Coming up and chewing gum and not making eye contact and bypassing the person at the booth and going right to the material on the table."

All useful information, especially for middle aged job seekers who may be out of practice.

Job seeker Howard Rudnick said, "I don't have any special skills. I sold furniture for 40 years -- that's all I know."

But employers say talk up the skills you do have and be confident. Sihto said, "We've had great success here. We've been here our third year now. We've seen a lot of great candidates here. RochesterWorks! does a great job sponsoring this event. We've seen, like I said, a lot of great candidates."

Even though sometimes it seems near impossible to find that exact position you're looking for, job seekers say they are remaining hopeful.

For more Rochester, N.Y. news go to our website [www.whec.com](http://www.whec.com).