

# Top 5 Job-Getting Skills in Astronomy

Jarron Leisenring & Gail Zasowski

# So you want a job...

5. Set ambitious, yet realistic goals.

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- o You can't get a job you don't apply for!
- o Consider all of your options...
  - o Government facilities, industry?
  - o Academia—small college vs. large research institution?
- o BUT know your limits!
  - o Pace yourself
  - o Focus on what you can accomplish to your level of satisfaction.

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4. Be organized and efficient.

# Be organized and efficient.

- o Apply to most-desired positions first.
- o Set early deadlines for yourself.
- o Don't expect employers to make concessions for you.
  - o Get applications in on time and in order.
  - o Eye on the calendar!
  - o Make yourself easy to be hired.

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4. Be organized and efficient.
3. Qualify yourself for the desired field(s).

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- It sounds obvious, but...
- Technical, specific skills:
  - E.g. computer literacy, instrumentation know-how, mathematical expertise
- Teaching and administration skills
- Personal characteristics:
  - E.g. patience, powers of observation, creativity

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2. Enhance communication skills.

# Enhance communication skills.

- It doesn't matter how good your work is if you can't share it!
- Talks, presentations, and posters
- Published papers, articles, abstracts
- Teaching and public outreach
- Personal communication

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1. Networking, networking, networking!

# Networking!

- o “It’s all in who you know.”
- o Conferences, especially specialized meetings
- o Talks, socialization with speakers
- o Research colleagues
  - o Past *and* present → future!
- o Personal connections
  - o Nepotism—make it work for you!
- o Remember communication skills!

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## Any questions?