**Ways to Build a Network of Contacts**

**Volunteering**

Allows you the opportunity to meet people, build your network, and gain valuable experience and skills.

**Informational Interviewing**

Involves speaking with people who are doing the type of work you are interested in. These people are potential contacts and can provide you with information/advice about the field in which they work.

**Job Shadowing**

Involves spending on-job time with someone doing the type of work in which you are interested. Gives you a chance to “test the waters” to see if you really enjoy the work.

**Attendance**

Attending events/workshops, career fairs, conferences and seminars puts you in touch with people working in the same field that you are investigating. May increase your chance of speaking with someone who is part of the hiring process.

**Join**

Join an association in the field in which you want to work. Become an active member and take every opportunity to meet other members.

**Job Finding Club or Job Search Workshop**

A group of job seekers who work together are more successful than someone working by him or herself. Other members of the group are valuable sources of information, encouragement and support.

**Network**

Ask people if they know anyone who is working in the field in which you want to work. Networking is a technique for finding out about employment opportunities before they are advertised.

**Training**

Take a night course for information and fun. Take a course in something new to you; you’ll meet a different group of people to expand your network.

Note: These materials have been developed and adapted from a range of sources for the purpose of the Bruce County Job Search Club.