

URL: <https://ecorner.stanford.edu/in-brief/finding-a-job-during-covid/>

If you're looking for your first job in the middle of the COVID pandemic, how should you approach the search process given that few companies are hiring? This is where scrappiness and grit are rewarded, advises Cisco executive vice president Amy Chang. Think about what you want to be doing a year from now, she urges, and start setting yourself apart as a candidate by scheduling a lot of informational interviews, building your network, and learning how you can add to your skillset.



Transcript

- We are living in such strange times, 00:00:05,360 especially if you're graduating from Stanford right now in COVID or anywhere in the COVID epidemic.. You have any advice for finding a career or a job in the era of COVID? - It is, you know, I feel for everybody 00:00:20,480 having to find their first job right now, it is hard.. And I wish it wasn't for all of you because that part really does suck.. So I was just on call the other night with someone who's, you know, in the midst of kind of finding her first job and we were talking about it and a lot of places aren't hiring.. So the question then was, okay, depending on what you wanna do in a year, right? Because a lot of places aren't hiring right now, what specifically are they looking for? How do you figure out what exactly that hiring manager and that kind of set of hiring managers is going to be looking for and what is gonna set you apart as a candidate, right? And figuring out through a whole ton of informational interviews, which by the way, some may be meandering, some may get you exactly what you want, but investing the time to go figure out what's gonna differentiate me, what's gonna make me stand out and double the applicant pool, right? Cause there's this year's applicants and next year's applicants.. So what is it that I can do to differentiate? And we were talking through some of that and I think this is where scrappiness gets rewarded, this is where grit gets rewarded, right? And one of the things that I, Ravi, you and I talked about this last time, the network piece of this, and I know early in your career, that seems kind of, okay, well, what network, right? I haven't even started working yet.. But you never know which of your friends' parents, or which of your parents' friends, or which of, you know, the folks that you know, who are in adjacent industries.. You don't even know who knows who, and there may be someone who can get you to someone who will explain what is that hiring manager gonna be looking for for X, Y, or Z, because all you need is a little leg up on, okay, well, if, you know the person I was talking to really wants to go into pediatric oncology.. All right.. well, are they also in that intervening year, would they be more interested in you if you also, you know, were well versed in child psychology? I don't know if the answer is yes or no, but that's something that she should go find out, right? It's that thought process of, Okay, well, if I look at the expanded network of everyone, I could ping and ask for an opinion on this and ask for some help, who can I get to? In getting creative, in getting scrappy...