

## I GOT A JOB!!

It's such a great feeling to be able to shout: "I GOT A JOB!" In looking back at the journey, you may wonder how you got there. To answer that, PMI members Chad Yeargain and Reina Schaetzl were interviewed about their recent job search (and find) experiences.

- 1. How did you find yourself without a job or why did you started looking (RIF, furloughed, bad fit, pandemic)?** Chad had been laid off due to the pandemic. Commercial office construction was hit pretty hard as companies were reducing or completely giving back office space. For Reina, her previous position was not a good fit. Even though she loves public service and thought she had finally found her place, she had to leave a bad situation. As Reina says, "Sometimes a boss is not necessarily a leader."
- 2. What tools/help did you use to look for a job? What do you think worked best?** Chad suggests networking like crazy – attend all the events you can and reach out to people on LinkedIn who already work for your desired company. His volunteer work with PMI-OC was the biggest game changer for him – not only was he able to stay relevant during his downtime, Chad believes that talking about what he does for PMI-OC set him apart from the other applicants and landed the job for him. Reina set a goal of submitting three resumes/cover letters a week, whether it was for a job application or just reaching out to companies where she wanted to work. Reina agrees with Chad's tool of "networking like crazy." She is grateful for the network she has built throughout her career and the invaluable connections and job leads it has provided.
- 3. What was different about looking for a job this time around?** For Reina, it was her experience of almost 20 years in public service that made her, "feel like [she] knew what [she] was doing," thinking changing jobs would be a seamless transition. However, it was more difficult than she had anticipated (6 months without a job). But volunteering with the PMI-OC group has supported her tremendously in learning about project management. For Chad, the difference was the process of the job search, requiring a bit more finesse, creativity, and dedication to being successful this time around.
- 4. What made you successful?** Chad says to look for ways to make it fun and work with organizations that are involved in your desired industry. Reina attributes her success to support from her family, friends, and fellow PMI volunteers to help stay positive and motivated.
- 5. And finally what words of wisdom and encouragement would you share?** Chad says to "stay positive and be patient. Don't just jump for the first opportunity thrown at you. Make sure it is the right opportunity." From Reina, "Keep calm and carry on...carry on above all."

Thank you to Chad Yeargain and Reina Schaetzl for sharing your experience!