

Think outside the box

- Depending on where you live and financial considerations, think about and be prepared to relocate. Research your field and the geographic “centers of excellence” related to this field. For example, California, particularly the San Francisco Bay Area, is a technology hub and has had a significant increase in tech hiring during the first quarter, outpacing all other industries.
- Gain multi-cultural experience, whether it’s learning a new language, teaching English as a second language, volunteering at a foreign cultural or educational institution, or working for a **study abroad** organization. Business continues to globalize so international experience/exposure provides a definite leg up.
- If you think job opportunities are going to be limited for some time, consider making a commitment to the **Peace Corps** or **Teach for America**, both provide eye opening, life changing experiences that will only increase your value to a potential employer.

Regardless of whether you volunteer, secure an internship or take an interim job like waiting tables, be purposeful. What interests you or relates to your field of choice? What can you learn from those around you? How can you progress in terms of additional responsibilities? What might a potential employer find valuable? One story I like to share: Kosta Browne Winery, the west coast producer of award-winning Pinot Noirs, was started by two waiters who saved their tips to fund their dream. They recently sold a controlling interest in their winery to a private equity firm for \$40 million.

And remember once you have a job, your job is not done. Learning how to spend—and save—your hard-earned salary requires continued commitment and focus. One helpful tool is **Mint.com**, a financial planning program available online and as a mobile app. Most importantly, it’s easy to use and free!

We’d love to hear and share your comments, experiences, and advice on how new college grads can develop a purposeful path to employment. Please email us [here](#).

Kindest regards,



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