



## Looking Forward Our Way

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### Encore Careers and Public Service: A Conversation with Whitehall Mayor Kim Maggard

#### DISCOVERING AN ENCORE CAREER:

As Baby Boomers were reaching their mid-sixties, a shift in the definition of “retirement” began. Instead of leaving work life, many were drawn to new experiences. The notion of an “Encore Career” has evolved from a singular focus on unpaid civic engagement and volunteering, to include opportunities of redefined and repurposed paid opportunities. An Encore Career for those 50+, utilizes the strengths and skills built over decades of employment to new endeavors that may create social impact, focus on community development, or invent a new path forward. Financial gain is normally not the motivation for an encore career. Instead, the individual is ready for a fulfilling, new adventure and the opportunity to evolve.

As you research your opportunities in an encore career, first evaluate your previous employment experiences. Understand the responsibilities you have held, the tasks you have completed, and the success you reached. This evaluation is personal, reaching in to determine what made you happy and fulfilled in previous jobs, and what you would like to continue to do moving forward. Here are some tips for this self-evaluation:

- ◇ Know your own values and what drives you to success: Think about the issues which are meaningful to you. What tasks have you performed in the past that could be utilized to make a difference? And how would you like to define the end of your work life; your legacy?
- ◇ Review each position you have held in your career. What strengths did you bring to each job? What skills did you use? Which of those skills would you like to continue to utilize and which you would prefer to let go of? Are the skills specific to a job or industry? Can the skills be transferable to a new opportunity? Are there skills you would like to learn?
- ◇ Explore positions that align with the skills you wish to continue. Review position descriptions of jobs that sound interesting – do your skills match?
- ◇ Discover more about positions of interest by talking to individuals who are employed in the jobs. Network with individuals. Reach out and ask for a short “informational interview”. Go to professional meetings, workshops, meetups to discover details about positions of interest. Utilize local organizations that provide retirement transition programming, or career search counseling. Find a mentor willing to guide you.
- ◇ Uncover more job details by volunteering at organizations that hire in this arena. You may find connections for part-time or freelance opportunities by reaching out.
- ◇ Prepare yourself for moving into a new role. Ensure your skills are up-to-date, or learn new skills is needed. Then, evaluate how you see yourself in this new role. What are your personal goals and will it meet them? Is there a financial goal? Do you have personal challenges that must also be accommodated?

#### WEBSITES FOR JOB SEARCH TIPS, JOB POSTINGS, TRAINING

AARP: <https://www.aarp.org/work/job-search/>

Career Builder: [www.careerbuilder.com](http://www.careerbuilder.com)

Career Changers <https://www.careeronestop.org/ResourcesFor/CareerChanger/career-changer.aspx>

Columbus Metropolitan Library computer courses: <https://events.columbuslibrary.org/events>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/>

LinkedIn Learning via the Columbus Metro Library: <https://www.columbuslibrary.org/research>

Indeed: [www.indeed.com](http://www.indeed.com)

Ohio Means Jobs: <https://jobseeker.ohiomeansjobs.monster.com/>

OhioTechCred: <https://techcred.ohio.gov/>

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (State of Ohio): <http://ood.ohio.gov/>

## CENTRAL OHIO NONPROFITS THAT ASSIST JOB SEEKERS

Columbus Urban League <https://www.cul.org/>

Dress For Success <https://columbus.dressforsuccess.org/>

Goodwill Columbus <https://www.goodwillcolumbus.org/>

Jewish Family Services <https://jfscolumbus.org/client-services/job-seekers/>

New Directions Career Center <https://newdirectionscc.org/>

WARM Westerville <https://warmwesterville.org/>

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LOCAL/STATE/NATIONAL WORKFORCE ORGANIZATIONS

U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook: [www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh)

O\*NET Resource Center: [www.onetcenter.org](http://www.onetcenter.org)

## LIFELONG LEARNING AND EDUCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR OLDER ADULTS IN CENTRAL OHIO

Columbus State Community College Good As Gold <https://www.csc.edu/services/registrar/good-as-gold.shtml>

The Ohio State University's Program 60 [www.odee.osu.edu/program-60](http://www.odee.osu.edu/program-60)

Ohio Wesleyan University, Lifelong Learning Institute <https://www.owu.edu/about/offices-services-directory/lifelong-learning-institute-at-owu/>

Otterbein University's Senior College and Life Long Learning Community <https://www.otterbein.edu/registrar/senior-college-courses/> <https://www.otterbein.edu/alumni/llc/>

Peggy R. McConnell Arts Center of Worthington, Lifelong Learning Institute <https://www.mcconnellarts.org/classes/lifelong-learning-institute/>

## VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

AmeriCorps Senior Volunteers <https://www.americorps.gov/serve/ameri-corps-seniors>

AARP/Ohio Volunteer Opportunities <https://local.aarp.org/westerville-oh/volunteering/>

BESA <https://www.besa.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/GiveBesa>

Columbus Gives Back <https://columbusgivesback.org/>

United Way of Central Ohio <https://liveunitedcentralohio.org/how-you-can-help/?return=Volunteer>

Volunteer Match <https://www.volunteermatch.org/>

2-1-1 System/Lutheran Social Services <https://lssnetworkofhope.org/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/>

## BOOKS AND PODCASTS

Bolles, Richard N. and John E. Nelson (2010). *What Color Is Your Parachute? For Retirement*

Bolles, Richard (current edition). *What color is your parachute? A practical manual for job hunters and career changers.*

Freedman, Marc (2008). *Encore: Finding Work That Matters in the Second Half of Life.*

Hagerty, Barbara Bradley (2017). *Life Reimagined: The Science, Art and Opportunity of Midlife.*

Moon, Janine (2010). *Career ownership: Creating job security in any economy.*

Ryan, Liz (2016). *Reinvention Roadmap: Break the Rules to Get the Job You Want and the Career You Deserve.*

Podcasts:

"Second Act Stories" <https://www.secondactstories.org/>

"The Next Chapter with Charlie" <https://www.thenextchapter.life/next-chapter-podcast/>