

## Career Skills

Getting a good job requires hard work, knowledge, and skills. Each statement below was made by a businessperson, health care professional, engineer, skilled tradesperson, or scientist currently working in Oregon's most rapidly growing industries. The statements are words of advice to high school students who might one day seek employment with their companies.

"We need people who can think for themselves and then work hard to make their plan a reality."

"When we hire someone, we want to know what you've actually done, not just what you know."

"I find that patients who know how living things work make better decisions about their health and have an easier time choosing treatment when they need it."

"We need people who can grow grassroots ideas using new technology."

"We like to hire people who have a passion for making things and don't mind working hard and getting dirty."

"I have an MBA. When I got this job, I learned a LOT of biochemistry in about a year. I wish I'd done that sooner."

"I had to learn to take my chemistry knowledge and fit it to each customer's individual needs."

"I need to know how to keep my employer out of court, and that means I need a deep understanding of the science they do."

"I need to know how the fertilizers and pesticides affect the plants I grow, and I need to know how to apply them properly."

"I'm a purchasing agent. I need to know about ordering, shipping and storing chemicals properly."

"Our most profitable projects have been developed by employees who think differently."

"Some of our 'smartest' hires have been outperformed by others who just work harder and longer."

"If I make the wrong decision about waste disposal, my company could be sued, or someone could get sick or die."

"We are hiring people now for jobs we didn't know existed a few years ago."

"Our highest paid employees are those who had the patience to work hard at tedious tasks until they finally got it to work out right."

"We love to hire people who aren't afraid to try things, take some chances and just get it done."

"A basic understanding of how things work makes you a better problem-solver. Making things is all about problem-solving."

"The girl who answers the phone needs to understand what each department does so she can direct phone calls."

"I have to understand what my client *does* before I can help find financial solutions."

"I could make up and modify recipes after I better understood the chemistry of food."

“When I learned welding, understanding the characteristics of compressed gas helped me to work safely. “

“Right now, we’d pay premium wages for an assistant who could deal with office tasks and understood how hydrogen is produced during photosynthesis.”

“I have to learn technology in a hurry, and not just computers. I had to learn to problem-solve, troubleshoot, and fix machines.”

“I didn’t realize part of my job would be disposing of chemical waste.”

“I have to give drug tests to new hires. Learning the procedure was just like chemistry class all over again.”