

ASK THE CAREER ENGINEER!

Francina R. Harrison, MSW

Q: I was fired from my last employer, now I am looking for another job. What should I say to my next potential employer? **Nancy R. (Texas)**

A: Nancy, the main message that you must convey to your next employer is that you are someone who is worthy of a “risk taking.” Employers are interested in the following: meeting goals/objectives, making a profit, engaging in long-term customer relationships, and producing a quality product. You need to convince your next employer that you have the skills, abilities and professionalism to help the company meet or exceed their goals.

You did not share the reason(s) that led to your termination. If you displayed behaviors that you have control of such as: poor attendance, punctuality, or insubordination etc. I suggest you make it your priority to “get on top of that struggle” and correct those behaviors immediately. If your dismissal was based on “poor work performance” then perhaps you are employed in an area that you are not interested in or that you don’t like. Most folks, if they don’t like something, will not do it very well. So perhaps some career exploration may be necessary in the near future.

In any case, be honest about what happened, share how you have “corrected” that problem and reflect on how you can assist a company in meeting its goals. Remember; never say any negative statements about your past employers. That is a sure way to never be hired again. Good luck!

If you have a question for “The Career Engineer” send an email to francina@thecareerengineers.com . Author of the book, *A Mind to Work: **The Life and Career Planning Guide for People Who ~~Want~~-Need to Work!*** For more information on Harrison & Associates, call 757-420-1109 or visit our website at www.thecareerengineers.com.