

**CAREERS NOW**  
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**FREE GUIDE FOR SPOTTING PROMISING CAREERS**

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*Tribune Media Services*

**DEAR JOYCE:** My brother is coming home from Iraq and will be getting back in to the civilian world, including the job world. I know that vets get transition assistance, but I'd like to do my part to help too. What was that free government website you mentioned some time ago? — W.O.J.

You're thinking about MyNextMove.org. You can't beat it as a free service aimed at helping individuals decide which career to pursue. This superb product is a division of O\*Net OnLine (onetonline.org), which is also free from the federal Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration.

Once on the O\*Net website, click on "Bright Outlook," which is listed under "Occupations" and then on "All Bright Outlook Occupations." That's where you'll find several hundred promising career choices. The "brights" are either expected to grow rapidly within the next several years, will have large numbers of job openings, or are new and emerging occupations. A few examples:

— Nanotechnology engineering technologist works on new products as tiny as individual atoms. A bachelor's degree in nanotechnology is recommended, and a number of colleges offer this major. Median annual pay is about \$60,000.

— Document management specialist is responsible for keeping bottlenecks out of document systems. A bachelor's degree in business administration is the ticket into the profession. Median annual pay for experienced professionals runs nearly \$80,000.

— Patient representative helps patients and their families to navigate the crushing insurance maze. Patient reps typically crossover from nursing or social work, but a growing number of two- and four-year colleges are offering programs in patient advocacy. Median annual pay is clocking in at nearly \$31,000.

**ANOTHER IDEA SOURCE.** In addition to the O\*Net website, check out recent studies by Indeed.com, a job search engine that aggregates all job postings on the Web.

Indeed.com periodically compiles a list of the fastest-growing keywords found in job postings. A new list consists entirely of information technology and social media terms.

But before heading for computer school, remember that new specialties typically emerge in information technology faster than in other sectors.

Another new list shows growth in energy jobs and includes oil, shale, crude, frac and natural gas.

Visit Indeed.com and click on “Trends” at the bottom of the opening screen.

**DEAR JOYCE:** What is a “matching site” in job search? – E.B.

Job-matching sites are the latest generation of job sites that claim to be matchmakers and thus improve your chances of connecting with employment. The best established matching sites are JobFox and RealMatch. The list goes on and on, and includes JobHat, VentuRocket, Grex, Direct Approach Solutions and Geekfinder.

The matchmaking sites are not free for job searchers. The sites’ income streams vary, and may include a monthly membership fee, payment by both the employer and job seeker for each interview connection, and/or a requirement that the job seeker pay for a professionally written resume.

Veteran recruiter Jeff Dickey-Chasins wonders whether any of the matching sites have solved the precision issues that have historically plagued them. Stay tuned.

**DEAR JOYCE:** I am a returning veteran who would like to get a graduate degree in criminal justice before hitting the job market. What are the best online institutions to consider? — H.H.

I assume you’ve checked out local universities. Vicky Phillips, my favorite authority on online college study, operates the website GetEducated.com. Her company regularly runs surveys of the nation’s “top best buys” in affordability for education consumers.

Fort Hays State University in Kansas ranks number one for its low-cost online master’s degree in liberal studies with a major in criminal justice. Online graduate students nationwide will pay just over \$7,000 for this state-sponsored online college degree. Some institutions charge three or four times that much.

See the whole list of best buys in many disciplines on [GetEducated.com](http://GetEducated.com).

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*E-mail career questions for possible use in this column to Joyce Lain Kennedy at [jlk@sunfeatures.com](mailto:jlk@sunfeatures.com); use Reader Question for subject line. Or mail her at Box 368, Cardiff, CA 92007.*

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