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## *8 Tips for New Career Counselors*

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As new counselors begin their journey in the field of career development, this exciting process can produce a mixture of both positive and negative emotions. It can often be challenging to balance the demands of a new job or practice, while also trying to remember and apply the knowledge and skills developed in graduate school. But seeking support, advice, and consultation from other career counselors can make the journey much more comfortable and enjoyable.

The following is a list of reminders that both new and seasoned career counselors may wish to keep in mind:

### **Environment**

1. Learn the system. Unless you're in private practice, you're always going to be working within someone else's system.
2. You will feel like you are doing better when you have all your best resources at your fingertips.
3. You can still do a lot for people even if you have no resources at all.
4. It's amazing how much help you can provide to a person in a 15-minute drop-in slot (such as a resume review before a job fair).

### **Colleagues**

1. Don't be afraid to refer clients to colleagues whom you think would be a better fit; colleagues will refer clients to you.
2. Consult with colleagues when it makes sense, to learn about resources or for their particular expertise. This experience will enrich your practice by learning from your peers. Don't underestimate how important fellow counselors are not only for support but for future career opportunities.
3. Always maintain the confidentiality of your clients unless they give you permission to disclose. Even if you have permission, disclose as little as possible.
4. Sharing resources with your colleagues will give you a reputation as a team player. Don't hoard information unless you're working on a book. There's plenty to go around.