



## *News Release*

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## **To Remain Employed, Be Prepared for a Life of Learning, Expert Tells Century**

If you want to be employed and remain employed, be prepared to take advantage of continuous skill-building opportunities, national employment columnist and consultant Amy Lindgren told a Century College audience on Nov. 16.

“I spend most of my day with people who are in job transition, and many of these people regret not taking advantage of training opportunities offered by their former employer,” said Lindgren.

She urged students to attend conferences, sign up for classes and do everything they can to keep up with changes in their field of interest. Every job field has a professional association, and she advised job seekers to join those groups to take advantage of their networking opportunities.

She said a degree or certificate may help you land a job, but your abilities and skills are what will keep you employed.

“Take advantage of campus activities and clubs,” said Lindgren. “Projects outside of class are often what can get you hired.”

Lindgren said she landed her first writing job based on her student newspaper and newsletter clips, not her grades.

Individuals who can write are much more employable than those who cannot, no matter what field they are in, Lindgren said. “Writing is a core skill that many people are missing,” said Lindgren. “Knowing how to make presentations and sell are also key skills – even if you are not in sales.”

She urged people to always be thinking about a second skill set that they can use to bridge out of one line of work and into another.

Finally, Lindgren urged people to always be prepared to be laid off. “This is the world we are in now,” she said. “Employers are using layoffs as a tool to shape their businesses. Have a career plan based on your individual desires and wants, but not a rigid career plan. Things happen. Health issues come up. Have a plan that allows you to fold it all in.”