



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James Sanders Jr.

## Sanders Hosts Job Preparedness Workshop in Richmond Hill

JAMES SANDERS JR. May 23, 2016



State Senator James Sanders Jr. (D-Rochdale Village) held a job preparedness workshop today at the Boy & Girls Club on Atlantic Avenue in Richmond Hill to help employment seekers polish their resumes and cover letters, receive tips on how to dress for success, gain insight on how to tackle difficult interview questions, and much more. The event was held in anticipation of Senator Sanders upcoming job fair, to be held at the same location tomorrow from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

“We know that when it comes to applying for a job, first impressions are lasting impressions,” Sanders said. “We are here to give people the tools they need to stand out from the crowd

and get the attention they deserve from employers and recruiters.”

The job preparedness workshop was taught by Camee Lee of 100 Suits For 100 Men, a local non-profit organization which assists community members in finding gainful employment and transitioning to new careers, among other work. Participants at the event were varied in their reasons for attending. Some were seeking to change careers, others wanted a new position that offered more stability and benefits, and some were looking to expand their skill set into starting their own business.

Lee told attendees that the three key elements employers examine when it comes to prospective candidates are their skills, whether they can function as a team player and what benefits they can contribute to improve the overall development and success of the company or agency. She also touted the importance of a well designed cover letter and resume that highlights previous work experience and accomplishments including volunteerism and details about one’s personal work ethic and goals.

“We want to get recruiters excited about bringing you onto their team,” Lee said. “They want to see things that pop. Always be honest, but aim to make your plain or neutral text, dazzling instead.”

Lee said common interview questions include: Why do you want to leave your current position, what are your greatest strengths, and where do you see yourself in five years? However, the question that most people make mistakes when answering is: Tell me about yourself. She said applicants tend to steer the conversation towards personal interests rather than professional aspirations.

“Always focus your answer on employment,” Lee said. “Be short, brief and direct with your

response.”

When it comes to professional attire, Lee said to stick with the basics. For men, a suit with a tie and dress shoes is best. For women, suits, skirts and dresses of appropriate length are advisable. Traditional colors: black, white, grey, brown and navy are preferable.

“It’s ok to add a splash of color with a bright tie or a hair clip as an accessory,” Lee said. “As long as the majority of your clothing is business attire.”

Senator Sanders and Assembly Member David Weprin will be hosting a Richmond Hill Job Fair tomorrow, May 24, 2016 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club, 110-04 Atlantic Avenue, Richmond Hill, NY 11419.