



Invest in Yourself this Holiday Season

During this time of year, there is a focus on giving gifts, finding the 'perfect present', or the best 'cyber sale'. This holiday season, consider giving a gift to yourself by investing in your career.

- **Invest in your strengths** - Consider how you will use your natural gifts to take the next step forward in your career.
- **Never stop learning** - Continually research trends in your career and develop a plan to fill any professional gaps.
- **Focus on the right relationships** - Make sure that your professional network is composed of individuals who inspire and teach you.
- **Invest in your online brand** - Check your social media platforms to ensure they are reflective of your professional image and goals.

Make a personal commitment to invest in yourself during this holiday season. You are worth it!

Small Talk During the Holidays

Small talk can be a big deal, especially during the holidays. Employers actually view small talk as a soft skill that is vital to furthering your career. While some people are comfortable with making small talk, others struggle. If you find it difficult, there are ways to improve your small talk skills as listed below.

- **Start simple** - Keep the conversation natural and look for a common connection.
- **Practice in low-stress situations** - Practice small talk as you are 'out and about' and be sure to listen and ask follow-up questions.
- **Have a purpose** - Start with a topic that you're comfortable with to guide the conversation. Be positive and thoughtful while showing curiosity for the other person.

Follow these small talk tips and soon you will be a professional at this important soft skill!

Holiday Networking Tip

The holiday season is a perfect time of year to reconnect and freshen up your networking skills. Reach out to those in your network to wish them 'Happy Holidays' as a way to build that professional relationship. And use holiday gatherings as a time to prepare and practice your 'Tell me about yourself?' statement while growing your network. It's a win-win for all!

