

Bring a Positive Mindset to Your Next Interview

By Veronica Mackey

Things are looking up for the class of 2012. Employers surveyed by the National Association of Colleges and Em-plovers (NACE) say they plan to hire 9.5 percent more graduates from the Class of 2012 than they did from the Class of 2011. The Class of 2012 will earn about 6 percent more in starting salaries, averaging just over \$48,000 to just over \$51,000.

February 2012 marks the 23rd consecutive month of job growth in the private sector, according to the Dept. of Labor. Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said "(The) jobs report is a step in the right direction for the middle class and for small business- Democrats will continue to work with President Obama to build on today's positive news to spur our economic growth and strengthen the middle class, and we are hopeful that Republicans will join us"

As half the population starts to retire, healthcare will continue to open up. The need for registered nurses has surged with an expected growth of 22.2 percent from 2008-2018. The average salary of \$71,692 is expected to increase as nurses take on more doctor responsibilities.

Those with nursing specialties can earn six figures.

Graduates who still struggle to find work can get a leg up on the competition with a paid internship. A NACE survey reveals "Class of 2011 graduates who took part in a paid internship were more likely to get a job offer, have a job in hand by the time they graduated, and receive a higher starting salary offer than their peers who undertook an unpaid internship or no internship at all." ■



current business and labor market conditions than they were in January (2012) And despite further increases in gas prices, they are more optimistic about the future. These findings translate into more spending, which means more hiring. It couldn't happen at a better time."

That's the good news. The not-so-good news is that 2012 graduates are actually replacing existing employees, filling positions left by outgoing Baby Boomers, so job market growth is really flat.

Those with engineering degrees will have higher starting salaries (about 3 percent more) than their peers in the Class of 2011. Like their big oil employers, petroleum engineering graduates will have higher-paying jobs than those with other majors. The average salary is \$82,740.

4BlackYouth.com reports biomedical engineers and computer software engineers are also in the high-demand category. Biomedical engineers average considerably less pessimistic about

BusinessInsider.com says U.S. consumer confidence in February surged to 70.8, exceeding expectations of 70. The Conference Board Consumer Research Center said: "Consumers are considerably less pessimistic about