

Dual Career Couples – How do they do it?

- The consensus of couples' panel is they met in the workplace or a work related event, though one did meet in a socially networking occurrence.
- It has been easier to have children and dealing with the constant relocating issues that occur when working in the oil and gas related careers, when the children are in the early child rearing ages vs. the older teen years.
- Some career couples based choices of industry related companies to work for, so they would general be stationed in the mostly energy related employment cities. They also pick and choose career opportunities based on family time opportunities through dialogue, communication, and reasoning with each other, so the job position will fit the wanted family structure situation.
- The panel suggests that it's a good idea to outsource different home tasks to free up time to use for personal and family time. Examples: commons household tasks, school transportation. Though it be a benefit socially to sometimes keep the task like school transportation that gives a chance to have that morning time bonding with kids.
- There are company flexible/part-time positions that allows couples to switch and change work times to work with needed times for family issues and family bonding time. If the flexible options are not available company policy is sometimes changed by communicating with management through a HR channel to see if accommodations can be made without punishment or negative career effecting moves.
- If the company is unwilling to be flexible then sometimes you have to face the option to push the point with your employer that you can't relocate, so it's good to keep in contact with good headhunters in case you need to look for employment with an employer that will fit your decision to stay at a certain city.
- In dealing with competing couples you have to have an open dialogue regarding honest feelings when the pay is different and how it affects each other and be open and willing to negotiate with each other on the uncovered issues.
- Bring work home depends on the importance and the stuff that can be done at a different time needs to be prioritize so, family time is the higher priority.
- Working productively at work and gaining respect and a reputation helps to address issues with maternity leave, planning to have a child to the point where you can take time off and still comeback because you are revered for your work ethic and professionalism that would justify hiring you back and keeping your position.