

The Business Informer

Tri-State Regional Workforce Alliance Business Newsletter



www.CareerDepot.org ~ www.YouthSuccessAcademy.org ~ www.tristateworkforce.com

August 2009

Mark Your Calendars

- ✓ Tri-State Meeting, August 27, 2009, 11:30 a.m., Calhoun Convention Center, Calhoun, GA
- ✓ Youth Council Meeting, September 9, 2009, Noon, Calhoun Convention Center, Calhoun, GA
- ✓ WIB/CCEO Meeting, September 16, 2009, Noon, Calhoun Convention Center, Calhoun, GA
- ✓ Southeastern Employment & Training Association (SETA) Fall Conference, September 13-16, 2009, Louisville, KY (visit <http://www.seta.org/> for more info)

USDOL announces \$220 million competition to fund programs for careers in health care industry

Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis announced a \$220 million competition to fund projects that prepare workers for careers in the health care and other high growth industries.

The competition announced today will result in grants to fund public entities and private, nonprofit organizations to train individuals for careers in the health care fields of nursing, allied health, long-term care and health information technology. Training also will be provided for careers in other growing industries based on specific regional needs. Approximately \$25 million of total funds will be reserved for projects serving communities impacted by automotive industry restructuring.

Grants awarded through this competition will be funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). In an effort to earn the maximum return on each investment, the Labor Department is encouraging prospective grantees to align their proposals with other federal agencies' Recovery Act investments intended to create jobs and promote economic growth. Projects funded through these grants will be conducted in partnership with the public workforce system in order to prepare workers to enter careers in targeted industries.

A notice of the grant solicitation will be available at http://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm and <http://www.grants.gov>. To learn more about the Recovery Act and efforts across the country to move the economy forward, visit <http://www.Recovery.gov>.

Tri-State Regional Workforce Alliance

Rick Layne

The Tri-State Regional Workforce Alliance has continued to make significant progress as numerous partners work across state lines to serve our workforce and to meet the current and future needs of employers.

The Alliance achieved non-profit status by formally incorporating as a 501(c)(3). Tax exemption forms have been completed and are currently under review by the IRS. Board members from each of the three states have been selected, and the board is actively engaged in identifying and advancing projects that will have a regional impact. Board members are:

Alabama

Honorable Melton Potter, Mayor of Scottsboro

Dr. David Campbell, President, Northeast

Alabama Community College

Dr. Mike Kennamer, Workforce Director, Northeast

Alabama Community College

Georgia

Honorable Bebe Heiskell, Walker County Sole Commissioner

Butch Jones, Workforce Investment Board Chair

Gwen Dellinger, Workforce Director, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

Tennessee

Honorable Claude Ramsey, Hamilton County Mayor

Jack Sample, Workforce Investment Board Chair

Beth Jones, Executive Director, Southeast Tennessee Development District

Officers are: Butch Jones, Chairman; Mike Kennamer, Vice-Chair; and Beth Jones, Secretary/ Treasurer. Up to six additional board members (two from each state) who represent major high-growth, high wage employers will be added as the Alliance moves forward.

Did you know....?

Georgia employers can verify Work Ready Certificates by visiting <http://www.act.org/certificate/account.html>

and clicking on "verify The National Career Readiness Certificate" and entering the number on the Certificate.



Minimum Wage

Revised Minimum Wage Posters are available at www.dol.gov/esa/whd/regs/compliance/posters/flsa.htm

Tri-State Regional Skills Forecast Update

Stephen Dunn

The Tri-State Regional Skills Forecast is now in full swing. Many of you know that the Southeast Tennessee Development District contracted with Mississippi State University's National Strategic Planning and Analysis Research Center (nSPARC). The team of researchers is responsible for completing specific tasks regarding the regional workforce, businesses and industries. In general, nSPARC will help define the Tri-State Region and identify key aspects of both the labor shed and business and industry needs. The scope of the research, in part, includes the analysis of workforce demand/supply, community assets mapping, sector/cluster analysis, skills shortages and gap analysis.

Dr. "Mimmo" Parisi and his research team are currently heavily engaged in the geographic scope for the forecast, as well as the supply and demand analysis. Initial stages of the community asset mapping have also been implemented. For the purposes of defining our region, nSPARC will utilize a Geographic Information System (GIS) to help interpret regional data. GIS helps answer questions and solve problems by looking at data in a way that is quickly understood and easily shared.

The final report, due April 2010, will provide data which may offer significant implications for our Tri-State region. The research results should provide opportunities to obtain future funding to address workforce development/talent development and business and industry needs. In short, the Tri-State Regional Skills Forecast will be a data-driven approach for potential opportunities in our region.

Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.
~Henry Ford

Auto Alley Worker Training Courses

Jeanette Long

As part of the ongoing industrial workforce development initiative included in the Northwest Georgia Auto Alley Work Ready Region, Auto Alley is offering a variety of training programs to automotive industries within the Auto Alley region at no cost to the company. The initiative and course offerings are in response to the Auto Alley Industry Survey conducted in December 2008 and January 2009. These programs will be delivered through the northwest Georgia region's technical colleges. Courses will be offered through the campus of Georgia Northwestern Technical College, Chattahoochee Technical College or West Georgia Technical College.

Employers may schedule employees for training, or offer additional suggestions for training needs or schedules, by contacting one of the following:

Georgia Northwestern Technical College
Jim Powell (706) 295-6961
Al Hutchison (706) 764-3592

Chattahoochee Technical College
Jonathan Warner (706) 253-4520
Kary Gilkeson (770) 528-4551

West Georgia Technical College
Joe Hajducko (770) 836-6624

The training courses are open first to incumbent employees of automotive industries participating with the Auto Alley region. The list of courses is available at www.careerdepot.org. To participate in the initiative, employers that are not part of the Auto Alley Initiative can contact the local technical college economic developer and request a training course from the approved course listings. All requests will be approved based on a "first come, first serve" basis with the Auto Alley companies receiving first priority for training "seats" in the classes. The cost for the training courses will be provided by the Auto Alley grant under the Industry Network budget category if part of the Auto Alley Initiative. If not, the tuition can be paid by the employer or the trainee. The cost will be a flat \$125 per hour rate with a negotiated minimum and maximum number of participants. The cost for additional supplies and materials will also be paid for by the Auto Alley grant if part of the initiative. Employees from businesses outside the Auto Alley industry network will be required to pay the percentage of the per hour rate fee based on total number of their employees divided by the total course participants in addition to the full cost for additional supplies and materials.



The Business Informer is a publication of the Tri-State Regional Workforce Alliance. For more information about the Alliance contact Gwen Dellinger, Northwest Georgia Workforce Development Director, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, 706.295.6485; Mike Kennemer, Director Workforce Development, Northeast Alabama Community College 256.228.6001, or Phyllis Casavant, Deputy Director, Southeast Tennessee Development District, 423.242.4251. Suggestions or articles to contribute - contact Terri Morgan at 706.295.6485 or [tmorgan\(a\)nwgrc.org](mailto:tmorgan(a)nwgrc.org)

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*Success is the sum of small efforts,
repeated day in and day out.*
Robert Collier