

Building the Next Workforce

Building the Next Workforce will be the subject of a discussion forum (by invitation only) at the Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center, Dalton, on Friday, February 16, 2007. The forum is being hosted by the **Northwest Georgia Workforce Investment Board** in partnership with the **State Workforce Investment Board**, **Georgia Department of Labor**, **Southern Growth Policies Board**, the **Tennessee Valley Authority** and several other regional partners. The forum is one of 12 regional forums being held across the state.

At the forum attendees will:

- ▶ be seeking insights on our region's workforce challenges;
- ▶ discuss the Governor's Certified Work Ready Community program and other creative solutions for addressing these challenges; and
- ▶ share ideas for implementing solutions they believe will best meet the needs of the region.

Highlights of the forum will be provided in the next issue of *the Business Informer*.

Youth Work Permits & Drivers' Licenses

The intent of House Bill 1190 of 2004 was to address poor attendance rates in schools by tying good attendance to the privilege of obtaining a drivers' license. Schools or school systems issue certificates of good attendance to students which must be provided to the Department of Driver Services in order for the students to obtain drivers' licenses. However, another component to the bill requires that the **good attendance certificates** be issued in order for students to **seek and obtain work permits**.

Employers can be fined \$1,000 if a work permit held by a student is not paired with the certificate of good attendance. Unfortunately, exceptions have not been made for high school dropouts, youth spending the summer out of town, etc.

Information about the requirements may be obtained at the Georgia Department of Driver Services web site at <http://www.dds.ga.gov/teens/>. Bill 1190 is available at http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2003_04/fulltext/hb1190.htm.

Tri-State Regional Workforce Alliance

Representatives from the **Northwest Georgia Workforce Investment Board**, **Northeast Alabama Community College**, and **Southeast Tennessee Development District** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to create the **Tri-State Regional Workforce Alliance**. In planning activities and projects, the members agreed that the following guiding principles were an integral part of success in achieving regional economic competitiveness:

- ▶ New business models for working together within multiple regions and states are necessary to maintain competitiveness in a global market.
- ▶ Government, business, economic development and educational organizations must work collaboratively in the region to develop a talent pool sufficient to attract and/or retain quality jobs.
- ▶ Individuals in the region should have access to the best assessment of their abilities/skills levels, career advisement, training and proper credentialing that can be provided regardless of their residency, their income, their disability or any other characteristic.



Representatives from Northwest Georgia, Southeast Tennessee, and Northeast Alabama meet to form the Tri-state Regional Workforce Alliance.

Members of the Alliance will be attending the National Association of Workforce Boards in Washington, D.C., the end of February. In addition to gaining knowledge from the many workshops on the agenda, the Alliance staff will work with Jacksonville WorkSource consultants on **National Business Learning Partnership activities**. **Butch Jones**, Northwest Georgia Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Chairman, and **Gwen Dellinger**, WIB Director, will meet with **Congressman Phil Gingrey** and **Senator Saxby Chambliss** to bring them up to date on workforce and economic development activities in our region.

Business Services Resource Fair

A Business Services Resource Fair will be held at the Cartersville Career Center, 19 Felton Place, Cartersville, on Thursday, March 22. The Resource Fair will be held from 11 am until 2 pm. Organizations throughout the region will be available to provide business people with information about the many services available to them. It is a great opportunity to gain knowledge and have your questions answered

See you at the fair in Cartersville March 22!!

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Job Tax Credit

Each year the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) ranks all 159 counties in Georgia based on certain economic factors and divides the counties into tiers. The tier ranking of a county determines the amount of Job Tax Credit certain businesses in that county will be entitled to receive. For information about the tiers, type of businesses, minimum number of jobs that must be created, etc., you can visit DCA's web site: www.dca.state.ga.us/economic/taxcredits/programs/taxcredit.asp.

E-Informer

The **Employer Assistance & Recruiting Network (EARN)** is a free service that connects employers looking for quality employees with skilled job candidates. Discover what employers across the nation have learned -- hiring people with disabilities is a great business strategy! The web site www.earnworks.com provides recruiting services, tools and resources, and the business case for hiring people with disabilities.

The **Small Business Environmental Assistance Program**, free of cost, assists companies with less than 100 employees to meet the federal, state, and local environmental requirements. Qualifying businesses should visit www.gasmallbiz.org for more information about the services available to them.

Georgia has an extensive infrastructure of support systems to assist new and expanding businesses. A listing of the services can be found at the state web site. Go to www.georgia.gov; from there click on "Business, Labor & Employment;" on that new page, click on "Operating a Business." There you will find links to the many offered services.

WIB Named CEDS Strategy Committee

The **Coosa Valley and North Georgia Regional Development Centers (RDC)** designated The Northwest Georgia Workforce Investment Board (WIB) to be the **Strategy Committee** for the **Comprehensive Economic**



William Steiner, Executive Director Coosa Valley RDC, and Butch Jones, Chairman Northwest Georgia WIB, discuss the Strategy Committee for CEDS.

Development Strategies (CEDS). A comprehensive economic development strategy, funded by the Economic Development Administration, is designed to bring together the public and private sectors in the creation of an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen regional economies. A CEDS

integrates a region's human and physical capital planning in the service of economic development. For more information about CEDS you may visit the web site www.eda.gov or contact the Coosa Valley RDC at 706.295.6485 or the North Georgia RDC at 706.272.2300.

Workforce Leadership Association (GWLA)

Congratulations to **Butch Jones, Chairman of the Northwest Georgia Workforce Investment Board.** Mr. Jones has been elected chairman of **Georgia's Workforce Leadership Association.** GWLA is an organization whose voting membership is comprised of the chairpersons of the Local Workforce Boards. Among its many responsibilities, GWLA represents local area interests at the state and national levels and provides a venue for sharing ideas among local areas. Mr. Jones is pictured at the right in the above photo. Thank you Mr. Jones for your leadership in Northwest Georgia and throughout the state.

The Business Informer is a publication of the Northwest Georgia WIB and the Coosa Valley / North Georgia Council of Chief Elected Officials. For more information about our business services contact Gwen Dellinger, Workforce Development Director, Coosa Valley RDC, PO Box 1793, Rome GA 30162-1793, 706.295.6485 or 800.332.1965 or Karen Howell, Workforce Development Coordinator, 706.277.7466, Vandy88@aol.com. Suggestions or articles to contribute - contact Karen.

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