

Save these Dates!!**Georgia Workforce Conference**

November 1 - 3
Athens, Georgia
www.dol.state.ga.us

Preparing our 21st Century Workforce

Community Strategies for Wealth Creation
October 27; 9:00 am - 2:30 pm
Chattanooga Convention & Trade Center
Mandy Taylor 423.763.4366

H&R Block Income Tax Courses

Ethical Considerations for Tax Professionals
November 8, Atlanta, Georgia
Everyone's Return
November 2 - December 31, Jasper, Georgia
Sole Proprietorships
November 13 - 17, Atlanta, Georgia
Tax Update
November 1 - December 31, Jasper, Georgia
UDC Symposium
October 24, Summerville, Georgia
November 6, Atlanta, Georgia
Visit www.hrblock.com for more information.

I'm proud to pay taxes in the United States; the only thing is, I could be just as proud for half the money.

-----Arthur Godfrey

Georgia CDL Requirement

All drivers applying for or renewing a **Commercial Drivers License (CDL)** in Georgia must complete the **Highway Watch®** safety and security program. It is a safety awareness and anti-terrorism training program. After completing training, drivers will receive a Highway Watch® Identification Card which must be presented to the Department of Driver Services (DDS) when applying for an initial CDL or upon renewing their CDL.

For more information, call 770.444.9771 or visit www.highwaywatch.com or www.gmta.org.

WIB Selected for National Project

The **Northwest Georgia Workforce Investment Board (WIB)**, along with **Southeast Tennessee** and **Northeast Alabama** workforce agencies, has been selected by the U.S. Department of Labor to participate in a National Business Learning Partnership project. The selected **Tri-State Regional Workforce Collaborative** was formed in January 2006 to promote regional workforce and economic development in the tri-state region.

Participating in the Business Learning Partnership will serve to strengthen the region's ability to address the challenge of elevating the region to a more competitive advantage in the world's economy. The project will kick off in early November as workforce development areas from over thirty-five states will meet in Denver, Colorado, to discuss strategies and goals and to establish matches between organizations to facilitate peer-to-peer learning.



Butch Jones, WIB
Chairman

The Northwest Georgia Workforce Investment Board participated in the first round of Learning Partnerships several years ago. The area served as a mentor to Northwest Tennessee to enhance their Business Services approach to workforce and economic development. The U.S. Department of Labor pronounced the project to be "a resoundingly successful collaborative effort."

For more information about the national project or the workforce investment program, you may contact **Gwen Dellinger**, Workforce Development Director Coosa Valley RDC, at 706.295.6485, email GwenD@cvrdc.org, or **Karen Howell**, Workforce Development Coordinator, at 706.277.7466, email Vandy88@aol.com.

Cut in UI Tax

State Labor **Commissioner Michael Thurmond** announced recently that starting January 2007, the Unemployment Insurance (UI) tax will be cut for most employers in Georgia. For more information about the tax cut, contact your local Department of Labor Career Center or visit www.dol.state.ga.us.

E-Informer

In early October, U.S. Labor Department announced that they have launched an interactive web site to help employers comply with **Health Benefit Laws**. It is designed to help employers and other plan officials understand their responsibilities in operating group health plans. The site is located at www.dol.gov/elaws/ebsa/health.

The U.S. Chamber has a new, free **Get-Out-the-Vote** kit to help small business owners engage their employees in the political process. Interested businesses may visit www.voteforbusiness.com, email vote@uschamber.com, or call 202.463.5604.

The Occupational Safety & Health Administration offers an online course on **Workplace Violence Awareness**. The course is designed for OSHA Compliance Safety and Health Officers (CSHOs) to provide basic concepts and resources to address workplace violence. The course may be accessed at <http://wshawpv.elearning.dol.gov>.

Next AJB

DirectEmployers Association, a nonprofit business association, has announced the creation of a new national job bank meant to replace America's Job Bank (AJB). AJB is being phased out by the Employment and Training Administration next July.

The JobCentral National Labor Exchange is expected to fill the void that will be left when AJB is closed. Job seekers will not be charged to use the site. In the future, the Association plans to allow state and local workforce agencies to use the site and gather postings to augment their own job banks. A prototype of the web site may be visited at www.jobcentral.com.

Newest DTAE President for Northwest Georgia



Dr. Skip Sullivan

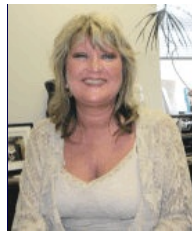
West Central Technical College welcomed its new President, **Dr. Irby "Skip" Sullivan**, to their campus in June. In announcing his appointment, Department of Technical and Adult Education (DTAE) **Commissioner Mike Vollmer** noted that Dr. Sullivan had impressed him with his strong leadership abilities and his deep belief in the importance of technical education. Dr. Sullivan, who came to West Central from Robert B. Miller College in Battle Creek, Michigan, received his Doctorate in Education from the University of Georgia in 1999.

Happy Thanksgiving!

North Metro Tech News

North Metro Technical College recently nominated two Bartow County Industries: **Shaw Industries, Inc.**, Plant 15 and **Sheet Metal Components, Inc.**, as Manufacturer of the Year. Each technical college in Georgia nominates local industries for the award. The winners are named at the Governor's Awards Spring Luncheon.

This fall **Georgia Highlands College** launched a satellite nursing program on the North Metro Tech campus. The program will admit 25 students to the Acworth site each year. For more information about the program, contact the Georgia Highlands' Rome campus at 706.802.5000 or their Acworth site at 770.975.4088.



Outstanding RES

Congratulations to Hope Welch who was recently named the Outstanding Rehabilitation Employment Specialist (RES) for Northwest Georgia Region One Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Revised EEO-1 Report

The **EEO-1 Report** is a government form requiring many employers to provide a category count of their employees. The report is submitted each September 30 to both the EEOC and the Department of Labor, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs. The report due September 30, 2007 has been revised. Visit www.dol.gov for more information.

Covering Your Assets

The Georgia Department of Labor's **Dalton Employer Committee** presents *Covering Your Assets!* a Guide to Helping Employers Avoid Needless Litigation on November 15, 8:30 am - 12 noon at **Dalton Utilities Auditorium**. The costs is only \$50. **Jonathan Martin** with Constangy, Brooks & Smith will help you navigate through the complex world of labor and employment laws. Contact Kathy.Williams@dol.state.ga.us, 706.272.2301 for more information or to register for the workshop.

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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