

What Can ICAPP Do for You?

Georgia's Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP) is an economic development program of the **University System of Georgia**.

ICAPP can connect companies with the research of the colleges and universities in the system with opportunities to bring the research to the marketplace and connect companies with university programs that offer free business and technical expertise to help their businesses succeed.

The Georgia Tech Economic Development Institute (EDI) helps companies improve productivity and quality, reduce costs, plan expansions, start new operations, and implement technologies.

For more information about ICAPP, visit their web site at www.icapp.org or telephone 404.656.2275.

"Job Applicant" Definition

The US Department of Labor has clarified record keeping provisions concerning who is an "applicant" in the context of the Internet and related technologies. The October issued rule applies to federal contractors who are subject to the record keeping provisions of the laws enforced by the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs.

When a contractor accepts expressions of interest for a particular position via the Internet or related technologies and paper applications, the new rule applies. If the contractor does not accept electronic submissions, the existing record keeping standards apply.

More information about the new requirements is available at <http://www.dol.gov/esa/ofccp/>.

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms (TAA) is a federal program that provides **financial assistance to manufacturers** affected by import competition. The program, sponsored by the US Department of Commerce, pays for half the cost of consultants or industry-specific experts for projects that improve a manufacturer's competitiveness.

The Southeastern TAA Center is located in Atlanta, telephone 404.894.3858, E-mail setaac@gatech.edu, web site <http://www.taacenters.org/setaac.asp>.

Key to Career Success

The **US Department of Labor** is distributing wallet-sized cards, brochures, and key fobs with employment and job training information to military personnel and veterans within the next few months. The cards will connect them with local One-Stop Career Centers where they will receive priority service as required under the **Jobs for Veterans Act**.

The Department has also developed the e-laws Recovery and Employment Assistance Lifelines Advisor. This online product will provide information and resources to help wounded and injured veterans' transition into civilian employment. The address is: www.dol.gov/elaws/reallifelines.htm.

Veterans offer employers unique skills and characteristics. **To hire a Vet**, contact your local One-Stop Career Center: Blue Ridge 706.632.2033; Cartersville 770.387.3760; Cedartown 770.749.2213; Dalton 706.272.2301; Fort Oglethorpe 706.861.1990; LaFayette 706.638.5525; Rome 706.295.6051.

Northwest Georgia Workforce System Honored

The **Northwest Georgia Workforce Area** received The Spirit of Collaboration Award at the 2005 Workforce Conference Achievement Awards dinner held in Albany on November 7, 2005. The Northwest Georgia Region One Consortia was selected by the Georgia Workforce Investment Board based on its accomplishments in developing and running the areas Workforce System including meeting the diverse needs of area businesses.



Accepting the Award L to R: Twyla Crump, Voc-Rehab; Jerry Garland, DOL; Georgia Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond; Gia Brunson, DFCS; Butch Jones, NWGA WIB Chairman; Gwen Dellinger, CVRDC; David Bennett, Voc-Rehab; James Hardegree, Chairman GWIB. Local colleges could not send a representative due to prior commitments.

Katrina Evacuees Training Funds

The Northwest Georgia Workforce Investment Board has received funds to train **Hurricane Katrina Evacuees**. The funds can be used to train at local colleges or with local businesses through on-the-job training. Employers training the evacuees may receive up to ½ the wages paid during the training period. For more information call 800.332.1965 or 706.295.6485.

Energy Assistance Program

The area's local Community Action Agencies are accepting applications from low income, elderly, and disabled Georgians for **heating assistance this winter**. The LIHEAP program operates on a first come, first served basis. Those in need of assistance should apply as soon as possible.

To qualify, applicants must have a yearly household income less than or equal to 150% of the federal poverty guidelines. For one person the amount is \$14,355; add \$4,890 per additional person.

For additional information, contact the North Georgia Community Action Agency at 706.692.5644 or Tallatoona Community Action Partnership, Inc. at 770.382.5388.



Dalton State College Management Certificate

Spring Semester Dalton State College will offer two sessions of Management 2201 Introduction to Management. **Remember HOPE Grant pays all tuition fees for all Georgia residents for technical certificate programs.**

Class Option 1: Monday & Wednesday from 6:10 pm until 8:50 pm. The class will last from January 9 through March 2, or *Class Option 2:* Tuesday/Thursday Rotating from 6:00 pm until 8:30 pm. The class will last from January 10 until May 5. **If you work SWING SHIFT**, Option 2 allows you to attend either Tuesday or Thursday according to your schedule that week. The instructor will teach the same lesson on both nights.

For more information, contact your HR Director or call David Farrow at 272-4474 or Lana Sweeney at 272-4584.

Small Business Compliance Assistance Workshop

A free workshop will be held January 9 from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm at the **Georgia Tech Research Institute** Conference Center, Atlanta. Representatives from the Occupational Safety & Health Administration, Wage & Hour Division, Health & Retirement Benefits, Labor Management Standards, Federal Contract Compliance, Veterans' Employment & Training, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Safety Engineering - Project Safe Georgia, Unemployment Insurance, Georgia Tech Economic Development Institute & Occupational Safety & Health Division, and Compliance Division Worker's Compensation will be present.

Contact Anika Harris-Vines at 404.894.7431 for more information; for directions, visit their web site at www.gtri.gatech.edu/visitorinfo/gtriconfdriving.html.

E-Informer

Gateway and Intel have launched the Knowledge Center which offers free online courses and content to help you understand technology used in your everyday life. Visit <http://knowledgecenter.gateway.com> for the courses.

The Labor Department has launched its new Compliance Assistance Web Portal designed to help businesses understand and comply with federal employment laws and regulations they administer. You can access the web site at www.dol.gov/ebsa/compliance_assistance.html

Disability Awareness Month

Special events were held throughout Northwest Georgia in October to recognize Disability Awareness Month.

Polk, Paulding & Haralson Counties held their 6th Annual Focus on Abilities Award Luncheon on October 3. Awards were presented to businesses, educators, and students. **Mel Fain**, One-Stop Career Center Coordinator at West Central Tech received the "Outstanding Service Award" for his service and support of Rehabilitation Services.

The **Rome-Floyd** Disability Employment Committee (DEC) held their annual Awards Luncheon at Berry College Krannert Center. Former **University of Georgia Head Football Coach and Athletic Director, Vince Dooley** was the keynote speaker. Awards presenter were: Employee of the Year - **Spencer Pruett, Todd Laney, Sonya Wells, and Nick Barnes**; Employer of the Year - **Riverside Toyota, Wheelers, Redmond Regional Medical Center, and Pepperell Primary School**; Distinguished Meritorious Service - **Counselor Norris Curtis**; Community Work Adjustment Site - **Chulio Hills Health and Rehabilitation Center**.

Rome-Floyd DEC also hosted its 9th annual Art Exhibition for students from Floyd County Schools, Rome City Schools, and Georgia School for the Deaf. There were 119 pieces of art from 13 different school in which the students demonstrated that people with disabilities have abilities! **Jessica New**, 10th grade student from **Armuchee High** won the ribbon for "Best in Show."

Attorney David Blackburn, who has Multiple Sclerosis, was the keynote speaker for the Whitfield-Murray County Disability Awareness Breakfast on October 19 at the Dalton Career Center. **Jeanne B. Brice** from the Mid South Chapter of the **National Multiple Sclerosis Society** was present also. Medical personnel, local employers and state agency staff attended the breakfast where Mr. Blackburn reinforced that "Abilities" outweigh "Disabilities."



Attorney David Blackburn & Hope Welch, Rehabilitation Services.

LaFayette Vocational Rehabilitation Unit participated in the first annual **Go-Fest** in Chattanooga. The day-long event brought together employers and assistive work technology, recreational, and service providers to display their products and services for people with disabilities. LaFayette also developed the luncheon for the **Tri-County Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities**. The 200+ attendees enjoyed a message given by **Laura Kay** and witnessed a presentation by the students of **Harvest Deaf Ministries**. Students, employers, and employees from **Walker, Dade and Catoosa Counties** were recognized for their achievements during the past year.

The **Gordon County Committee for the Employment of People with Disabilities** (GCCEPT) held its sixth annual luncheon in Calhoun. The keynote speaker was **Layne Thome**, Director of Associate Services for **Home Depot**, who detailed the positive aspects of hiring people with disabilities. This year's award winners included Employee of the Year, **Matthew Cruze**; Employer of the Year, **Wal-Mart in Calhoun**; Meritorious Service Award, **Angela Mitchum** of **West Georgia Consultants**; Pioneer Award, **Mike Manning** of Vocational Rehabilitation; and Student of the Year, **Bradley Kersey**.

The **DOOR (Developing Ongoing Opportunities through Rehabilitation)** in Bartow County celebrated with the 7th Annual Recognition Luncheon at the Cartersville Civic Center. **Jim Dunham, Booth Western Art Museum**, was keynote speaker. **Doc Stovall** also from the Booth Museum provided entertainment. Approximately 300 attended the event sponsored by **Bartow County Commissioner Clarence Brown and Cartersville Mayor Mike Fields**. Awards were presented for Teach of the Year, Employer of the Year (**Grip Tech**) and Employee of the Year. **Stanley (Bibby) Morgan, Victor Morgan & Kathy Anderson** among others were recognized for their years of service to the county's school systems.



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.

An Equal Opportunity Program. Published by Coosa Valley Regional Development Center.