



September 2008

**Events****Business Expo & Job Fair**


Rock Spring, GA  
Walker Co. Civic Center  
October 7, 2008  
[www.walkercochamber.com](http://www.walkercochamber.com)

**Prater's Mill Country Fair**


Dalton, GA  
October 11 - 12, 2008  
[www.pratersmill.org](http://www.pratersmill.org)

**Georgia Apple Festival**

Ellijay, GA  
October 11 - 12 & 18 - 19, 2008  
[www.georgiaapplefestival.org](http://www.georgiaapplefestival.org)


**Business Expo**

Calhoun, GA  
October 16, 2008  
[www.gordonchamber.org](http://www.gordonchamber.org)


**Sequoyah Art, Craft & Antique Show**

Summerville, GA  
October 18, 2008

*Limited to arts & crafts made in the Tri-State Area*  
[www.chattooga-chamber.org](http://www.chattooga-chamber.org)

**Ketner's Mill Country Arts Fair**



Whitwell, TN  
October 18 - 19, 2008  
[www.ketnersmill.org](http://www.ketnersmill.org)

**Business Expo & Job Fair**


Athens, TN  
October 23, 2008  
[www.athenschamber.org](http://www.athenschamber.org)

**Business Expo**

Cartersville, GA  
October 23, 2008  
[www.cartersvillechamber.org](http://www.cartersvillechamber.org)

**Expo 2008**


Rome, GA  
November 8, 2008  
[www.rome-ga.com](http://www.rome-ga.com)

**State Budget Woes Impact Education**

**B**udget shortfalls in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee are impacting state education systems. The **University of Alabama** system is facing \$75 plus million in budget cuts which will result in job cuts and construction projects being cancelled. The system may also raise students' tuition. Overall higher education is being cut 11% and K-12 schools 3%.

The **University of Tennessee** system is facing lesser cuts of more than \$20 million, but it also is having a major impact, including the possible elimination of some academic programs, reductions in staff, and delays in maintenance and repairs as well as purchases of technology. K-12 will end further expansion of pre-K classrooms. State positions may be cut by up to 2,000 personnel.

In Georgia, Board of Education formula funding will be cut by more than \$160 million and the **University of Georgia** system by more than \$97 million. Depending on revenues other reductions may be coming. Most departments or divisions will face a minimum of 6% in reductions. The Small Business Development Center at Georgia Highlands College will close September 30. Because of the cuts, Georgia Highlands could not afford the required match, and the six counties it served will have to be absorbed by the Centers at Kennesaw State University and Dalton State College. The decision concerns the local area as the Center provided much needed services to start-up small businesses.

You only need two tools in life - WD-40 and duct tape.

If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.

**America's Dynamic Workforce**

**America's Dynamic Workforce: 2008** is now available to download from the US Department of Labor's web site <http://www.dol.gov/asp/media/reports/workforce2008/>.

The publication includes an overview of current conditions and trends affecting the labor market and economic activity. It includes measures of labor market performance such as employment, labor force participation, unemployment, and compensation. Gross domestic product (GDP) and productivity are included as they relate to labor market conditions and trends. The report is available as a PDF download.

The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity.  
The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

Winston Churchill

## Opening New Doors to a High School Diploma

by Lynne Reese

**N**orthwest Georgia Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA), through a Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Youth Grant, is offering scholarships to qualified youth to complete the requirements for a high school diploma. The double-accredited (SACS and CITA) **Blue Ridge International Academy** is based in Virginia. All course offerings are internet based; and all core course requirements must be met, with a minimum of **f o u r** (4) credits earned, before earning a diploma. The Northwest Georgia WIB also requires that students complete a Career Exploration Course which include resumes, job applications, interviewing sk and portfolios.



Blue Ridge Academy came into being in northwest Georgia because Graduation Coaches at area high schools were frustrated by the number of high school seniors who repeatedly failed some or all segments of the Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGTs). These students were passing all of their classes and receiving passing grades on End of Course Tests. But because they could not pass ALL segments of the GHSGTs, they could not receive a diploma and were counted as HIGH SCHOOL DROP-OUTS!!!!

Coosa Valley Regional Development Center (RDC) Workforce Development staff and WIB youth providers researched possible solutions for more than a year before selecting Blue Ridge Academy's internet-based, high-standard program. Students may take the courses at home, at the school, in the library or anywhere internet access can be obtained. BUT all tests must be proctored by the Graduation Coach at the student's original school site. Certified teachers and counselors are in constant contact with the student, their parents, the graduation coach and the RESA coordinator through emails and phone calls as well as written correspondence.

Two local school boards, Chattooga County and Gordon County, unanimously adopted the program last winter. Fourteen (14) students are currently enrolled in the program. Calhoun City, Rome City and Floyd County Schools are also interested in the program. **Sonorville High School** graduated the first Blue Ridge Academy student with her classmates in May 2008. This young lady has been accepted into the Health Occupation courses at Coosa Valley Technical College starting this month.



The diploma from Blue Ridge Academy is a valid document for admission to our technical colleges and students receive HOPE funding as long as they have been a Georgia resident for more than one year.

For more information regarding the Blue Ridge Academy high school diploma program, please contact **Lynne Reese**, YAP/WIA Coordinator, Northwest Georgia RESA, 706-295-6189 ext 26.

The Internet-based Blue Ridge International Academy is **open to individuals of any age** who want to earn an accredited high school diploma. More information about their program is available at their web site at <http://www.blueridgelearning.com/>.

## e2e Works

**G**eorgia Tech's five-year-old program, **e2e Works**, has worked with more than 900 entrepreneurs across Georgia. The program is sponsored by the Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation Institute, the OneGeorgia Authority, the Intellectual Capital Partnership Program of the University System of Georgia and the Georgia Rural Economic Development Center. Don Betts, Director of e2e Works, reports that the program had a \$42 return on investment for every dollar spent in terms of new sales growth, investment, and contracts.

E2e Works directly assists entrepreneurs, promotes awareness of angel investing, and increases the effectiveness of Georgia's rural business incubators. April 2009, e2e Works will help sponsor the annual meeting of the international Angel Capital Association being held in Atlanta. For more information about the program, you may visit <http://innovate.gatech.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=1712>.

## Workforce Development Month

**S**tates across the nation have set aside September to celebrate Work Development Month. The designation provides an opportunity to recognize the dedication of workforce development professionals as well as to recognize and thank businesses and employers for their contributions to the future of their workers, their communities, and the nation.

## Disability Awareness Month

**N**ationwide, October is recognized as "**National Disability Employment Awareness Month.**" Events will take place throughout the tri-state region to increase public awareness of the contributions and skills of American workers with disabilities. Remember to support and take part in the events in your local areas.

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, Coosa Valley Regional Development Center, 706.295.6485; Mike Kennemer, Director Workforce Development, Northeast Alabama Community College 256.228.6001, or Phyllis Casavant, Deputy Director, Southeast Tennessee Development District, 423.2424.4251. Suggestions or articles to contribute - contact Terri Morgan at 706.295.6485 or [tmorgan@cvrdc.org](mailto:tmorgan@cvrdc.org). An Equal Opportunity Program. Auxiliary aids and services available upon request. Published by Coosa Valley RDC, Rome, Georgia.

If I leave here tomorrow  
Would you still remember me?  
For I must be travelling on, now,  
'Cause there's too many places I've got to see.

-- Lynyrd Skynyrd - Freebird Lyrics