

# The Business Informer



Tri-State Regional Workforce Alliance Business Newsletter

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November 2009

## Mark Your Calendars

- ✓ **Youth Council Meeting** – Noon, November 11, 2009, Calhoun Convention Center, Calhoun, GA
- ✓ **WIB/CCEO Meeting** – 10:00 a.m., November 18, 2009, Calhoun Convention Center, Calhoun, GA
- ✓ **Tri-State Meeting** – November 17, 2009, 11:00 a.m. (Central), Goosepond Civic Center, Scottsboro, AL

## Did you know....?

You can stay connected to small business resources available to you by visiting <http://business.gov/>



The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) provides brochures, booklets and posters for businesses at [www.osha.gov/pls/publications/](http://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/).

## Industrial Systems Tech Building Nears Completion

Northeast Alabama Community College's new Industrial Systems Technology Building is nearing completion. The building, which will house classrooms, offices and shops for welding, machining, and industrial systems, will be complete in time for January classes.

"We are very excited about the building and the opportunities it will bring to our community," stated Dr. Mike Kennamer, NACC Director of Workforce Development. The building is located on the west end of campus on Alabama Highway 35. A ribbon cutting and open house will be held in the coming months.

## NACC Receives ARRA Grants

Northeast Alabama Community College President Dr. David Campbell recently announced that the college will receive approximately \$200,000 under the Governor's Recovery Act Skills Training Program (GRASP). These funds will be used to train adults and displaced workers in two programs: Plumber's Apprentice Career Track and Home Health/Hospice Aide with Certified Nursing Assistant.

"As we know, our area has been hard hit by plant closings and layoffs," stated NACC President Dr. David Campbell. "We have sought out programs that can provide some training opportunities for area residents that can get them on the road to new jobs and careers. We are appreciative of those who are funding and supporting this program at the federal and state levels, particularly the Governor's Office of Workforce Development, the Region II Workforce Council, and the Alabama State Workforce Planning Council." The college will offer each of these short-term, non-credit programs three times during the one-year grant period.

## U.S. Labor Department awards cooperative agreement to establish national technical assistance center for employers on people with disabilities

The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) has awarded a cooperative agreement to Cornell University's Employment and Disability Institute, School of Industrial and Labor Relations in Ithaca, N.Y., to establish a national technical assistance center for employers on employment of people with disabilities. The purpose of the center will be to conduct innovative research, assist ODEP in developing demand-side policy, and share best practices with employers on the recruitment, hiring, retention and advancement of people with disabilities.

Cornell University's Employment and Disability Institute, School of Industrial and Labor Relations will receive \$1.6 million to lead a consortium for the center, which will include the AFL-CIO Center for Green Jobs, the Altarum Institute, the Conference Board, the Institute of Educational Leadership, the National Business and Disability Council, Rutgers University's John J. Heldrich Center and the U.S. Business Leadership Network. The cooperative agreement was awarded as a result of a competitive process and has a 12-month period of performance.

ODEP provides national leadership on disability employment policy by developing and influencing disability employment policies and practices, building collaborative partnerships, and delivering authoritative and credible data on the employment of people with disabilities. For more information, visit <http://www.dol.gov/odep>.

## New Guidance for Businesses to Plan for and Respond to the Upcoming Flu Season.

The guidance, released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is designed to help employers prepare now for the impact of seasonal and 2009 H1N1 influenza could have this fall and winter on their employers and operations.

Employers' plans should address such points as encouraging employees with flu-like symptoms or illness to stay home, operating with reduced staffing, and possibly having employees who are at higher risk of serious medical complications from infection work from home, according to the CDC guidance.

It is not known whether the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus will cause more illness or more severe illness in the coming months, but the CDC recommends that everyone be prepared for influenza. Because seasonal and 2009 H1N1 influenza pose serious health threats, employers should work with employees to develop and implement plans that can reduce the spread of flu, and to encourage seasonal flu vaccination as well as H1N1 vaccination when that vaccine becomes available.

"The President has mobilized the federal government to get America prepared," DOC Secretary Locke said. "But government can't do it alone. For this effort to be successful, we need the business community to do its part." Making the right decisions will not only improve public health, it also has the potential to protect economic productivity: Employees who are sick and stay home will not spread the flu in the workplace.

"This new guidance will help our private sector partners continue to prepare for the upcoming flu season to keep our economy functioning and our critical infrastructure secure," said DHS Secretary Napolitano. "Ensuring business continuity is important to our cooperative efforts to keep Americans safe."

Employers should review sick leave policies and ensure employees understand them, according to the guidance. Employers should try to make sick leave policies flexible for workers who may have to stay home with ill family members or if a child's school is closed, the CDC says.

Employers should consider offering vaccine against seasonal flu, and encourage employees to be vaccinated against seasonal and H1N1 flu, the guidance says.

Employers also might cancel non-essential face-to-face meetings and travel, and space employees farther apart, the report says. And employees who are at higher risk for flu complications might be allowed to work from home or stay home if the flu is severe, it says.

For more information, visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov).

The North Georgia Career Expo & Job Fair will be held at the North Georgia Trade & Convention Center in Dalton, Georgia on November 19, 2009 from 1:00 p.m.– 5:00 p.m. To reserve space at this event or for more information, please visit [www.careerdepot.org](http://www.careerdepot.org).

## Work Experience

The Workforce Investment Board of Northwest Georgia and the Coosa Valley/North Georgia Council of Chief Elected Officials have approved a policy providing funding for paid Work Experience activities for individuals who are eligible for WIA and possess one or more of the following:

1. little or no previous work history;
2. no work history within the past five years; or,
3. the individual has attained academic credentials, but their lack of experience in the field impedes their employment; and the individual in need of this service to assist them in preparing for appropriate training or to successfully obtain and retain unsubsidized employment.

If your company is interested in becoming a work site, please contact Terri Morgan at 706.295.6485 or [tmorgan\(a\)nwgrc.org](mailto:tmorgan(a)nwgrc.org).

*"Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler." - Albert Einstein*



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, 423.2424.4251. 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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