

Announcements

The January **WIB/CCEO** meeting will be postponed until February 25, 2009 at Noon. This meeting will be held at the Gordon County Campus of Coosa Valley Technical College. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Terri Morgan at 706.295.6485 or tmorgan@cvrdc.org.

The next regularly scheduled **Youth Council** Meeting will be on March 11, 2009, Noon, at Ryan's Restaurant in Calhoun, Georgia.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the **WIB/CCEO** will be on March 18, 2009 at Noon (meeting location to be determined).

Mark Your Calendars

Tri-State Meeting, February 26, 2009, date/time TBA
Daylight Savings Time Begins--March 8, 2009

The Polk-Haralson Human Resource Employer Committee is sponsoring a "Building Generational Leadership" seminar on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at the First National Bank of Polk County. Contact contact Lisa Clark at (770) 749-2213 or lisa.clark@dol.state.ga.us for more information.

Manufacturing Appreciation Week-- April 13-17, 2009

Northwest Georgia Area Feels Impact of Economic Downturn

Northwest Georgia lost more than 5,200 jobs in 2008 and will lose an additional estimated 1,000 jobs during January 2009. Unemployment claims in the region's two Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA), Dalton and Rome, rose by 349 % and 351% respectively during 2008. The average initial unemployment claims for all 15 counties (that make up the Coosa Valley/North Georgia area) rose by 292% during the same period. More information can be found at www.dol.state.ga.us.

**Did you know...?**

The Georgia Work Ready Initiative assists employers in finding suitable candidates for available positions by utilizing WorkKeys® assessments in the following categories:



- ✓ Work Characteristic Skills Assessment
- ✓ Applied Mathematics
- ✓ Locating Information
- ✓ Reading for Information

Customized Job Profiles are available in addition to a database of profiles previously completed. Please visit gaworkready.org/index.html to find out more about this exciting initiative and to locate a Work Ready assessment site near you.

One-Stop Career Centers, which can be found in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, provide valuable services to employers and job seekers alike. To locate a Career Center in your area, please visit www.servicelocator.org or call 877-US2-JOBS.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that it has delayed until April 3, 2009, the implementation of an interim final rule entitled "Documents Acceptable for Employment Eligibility Verification" published in the Federal Register on Dec. 17, 2008. In addition, USCIS has reopened the public comment period for 30 days, until March 4, 2009.

Employers must complete a Form I-9 for all newly hired employees to verify their identity and authorization to work in the United States. The interim final rule will amend regulations governing the types of acceptable identity and employment authorization documents employees may present to their employers for completion of the Form I-9. Under the interim rule, employers will no longer be able to accept expired documents to verify employment authorization on the Form I-9. The interim final rule and an informational copy of the revised Form I-9 will continue to be available for public comment at www.regulations.gov.

U.S. DOL Grant Establishes

Training Program by Rick Layne

The Southeast Tennessee Development District has received a grant totaling \$1,962,660 from the U.S.

Department of Labor to establish the Southeast Regional Advanced Manufacturing and Welding Training Institute. The grant is funded under the Department of Labor's Community Based Job Training Grant program.



The Institute will provide certificated and/or degreed training to 500 students over three years by increasing capacity to provide high-skilled welding and advanced manufacturing training at Chattanooga State Technical Community College and the Tennessee Technology Center at Athens. The Institute will be housed at the two educational institutions with administrative and oversight support from the Southeast Tennessee Development District. Additional welding instructors, advanced manufacturing instructors, support staff, needed equipment commensurate with today's training requirements, and modest overhead expenses will be funded.

The grant award announcement was made on January 22, and details on how the training will occur are under development. Graduates will help supply the demand for highly skilled workers throughout the region created by the Volkswagen project, its suppliers, and the resurgence of the nuclear industry.

The Development District, the two training providers, and a local manufacturer, East Tech, Inc., will provide matching dollars totaling \$711,750 to support the project.

IRS Mileage Rates (beginning January 1, 2009)

- 55 cents per mile for business miles driven
- 24 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

For more info, click on:

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/rp-08-72.pdf>

Minimum Wage Increase

Effective July 24, 2009, the federal minimum wage will increase to \$7.25 per hour (reference: O.C.G.A. 34-4-3).

Small Business Development Certificate Program

The Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce has developed a certificate program which includes workshops for businesses that are new or a few years old. These courses will be taught by experts from the University of Georgia Small Business Development Center.

These workshops are open to Chamber and non-Chamber members. The Small Business Development Certificate Program is \$150 for Chamber members and \$250 for non-Chamber members (or \$30 per workshop for Chamber members and \$55 for non-Chamber members). The schedule is as follows:

- *Introduction to a Collection of Workshops*, March 3, 6:30-8 p.m.
- *"Starting Your Own Business,"* March 5, 6-9 p.m.
- *"Marketing Your Business,"* March 12, 6-9 p.m.
- *"Finding Money for YOUR Business,"* March 17, 6-9 p.m.
- *"Managing By the Numbers,"* March 24, 6-9 p.m.
- *"Writing an Effective Business Plan,"* March 26, 6-9 p.m.

Scholarships are available. For more information call 706-291-7663.

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.
Aristotle



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, 423.242.4251. Suggestions or articles to contribute - contact Terri Morgan at 706.295.6485 or tmorgan@cvrdc.org. An Equal Opportunity Program/Employer. Auxiliary aids and services available upon request. Published by Coosa Valley RDC, Rome, Georgia.