

Chattahoochee Technical College Career Fair
May 7, 2009
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Marietta Campus Building H

Northwest Georgia and ARRA

Northwest Georgia's allotment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is as follows:

ADULT	YOUTH	DISLOCATED WORKER
\$ 949,396	\$ 2,131,483	\$ 3,309,485

TAA/WIA

Under the guidance of Pam Griffin with the Georgia Department of Labor, a committee has been formed to find ways to Integrate the services of TAA and WIA. The purpose is to ensure that assessment, counseling, and case management services are provided to TAA-eligible workers as per the Governor-Secretary Agreement. Although TAA funds cannot be used to prove these services, the law requires that TAA-eligible workers receive such services from One-Stop partners. At this time the state wide co-enrollment in TAA and WIA is less than 50%. This committee will be looking into ways of improving these numbers.

The Trade Adjustment Assistant Act was reauthorized in the Recovery Act and has been expanded tremendously to help unemployed workers. The effective date of the new law is May 18, 2009, and provides many new opportunities. They include but are not limited to:

- Individuals that are effected by "trade impacted" layoffs can work and receive training simultaneously.
- Eligibility has been expanded to include service industries and the public sector.
- Makes COBRA health care more available and affordable for covered workers.
- Increases funds available for training programs by nearly 160 % and provides more flexible training.

Tri-State Committee Elects Chair

Butch Jones, the current chairman of the Northwest Georgia Workforce Investment Board, has been elected the new chairman of the Regional Workforce Alliance, Inc. (TRWA). The TRWA is a group dedicated to combining workforce initiatives in the Northeast Alabama, Southeast Tennessee, and Northwest Georgia areas.

Mr. Jones is a resident of Gilmer County and has been an advocate for WIA for many years.

WIA staff is working to ensure that this money is allocated by September, 2009. The timeliness is vital in order to demonstrate the region's ability to use the funds provided and to quickly serve those effected by closures and layoffs.

The largest task that Northwest Georgia is faced with is spending the youth money on the summer youth program during a short time period. Youth and employers must be identified before local schools are out for the summer. A Summer Youth "Request For Proposal" has been issued and providers interested are preparing plans for their organization to submit for the grant award process. Staff have been interviewing and processing applications for hundreds of youth. Lesia Lambert, WIA Youth Program Specialist, will be overseeing the bidding process and the monitoring of the programs and Bernice Jackson, WIA Eligibility Specialist, will be supervising the intake process.

Plans are also being developed to provide as many dislocated workers and adults in Northwest Georgia access to the more than \$4 million in funding.

For more information about the Youth RFP please visit www.careerdepot.org. Questions regarding services may be asked by calling 1-800-332-1965.

Green Jobs

The term "green jobs" is used a lot these days in discussions about job training as the need for environmentally friendly products and preservation of our natural resources becomes more in demand.

Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) a number of other federal programs will receive large investments in programs and projects that could create "green jobs."

So what is a "green job" and what can we do on the local level to promote "green jobs?" Some of the technologies identified in the ARRA are renewable energy infrastructure, energy-efficiency home retrofitting, biofuel development, and advanced drive train/vehicle development and manufacturing.

Some existing industries may already be using "green skills." These may include, but are not limited to, power plant operators; electrical engineers; heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) mechanics and in-

stallers; and roofers and construction managers.

Parks management and homeowners can implement zeriscaping. This is a term that refers to planting flowers, shrubs, and trees native to the area. This eliminates the need for unnecessary watering. The idea of zeriscaping is to return the land to its native habitat.

For more ideas on green technologies visit www.greentechnolog.com.

For information about zeriscaping visit <http://thymeontheterrace.com/gardeninginfo/condensedzeriscaping.htm>.



Northwest Georgia Layoff and Expansion Update

Layoffs: Following the difficulties of the economy at the end of last year, employers have continued to struggle in the first quarter of 2009. In the first three months, the fifteen counties in Region 1 have lost over 2000 jobs to plant closings and layoffs. Already announced for April and beyond are an additional 1250.

By far the largest closure is one just announced this week. Trinity Rail will be closing by the end of the year and laying off 657 workers. Following in layoff numbers are the Mohawk spinning plant in Gordon County which laid off 390 workers, Whitfield County's Pilgrims Pride plant with 277 and

Walker County's Roper Corporation with 257. Although these employers have had the largest numbers at a single plant, layoffs are affecting all counties in the region.

Expansions: Good news comes out of Floyd County as Southeastern Mills and Sara Lee have both been actively hiring. Pirelli Tire announced late in 2008 it's plans to expand the Rome plant. Also, Marglen of Floyd County has plans to expand.

The new Volkswagen Plant coming to the Chattanooga region will boost employment in the northern most counties as we get closer to it completion. Suppliers to Volkswagen will be moving into the surrounding counties.

Dates to Remember

- The Northwest Georgia WIB/CCEO Meeting will meet on May 20, 2009. For information contact Terri Morgan at (706) 295-6485 or tmorgan@cvrdc.org.
- National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) 20th Annual Conference. May 31-June 3, 2009. Minneapolis, Minnesota at the Hilton-Minneapolis.
- The Council for Community & Economic Research (C2er). June 2-5 2009. Kansas City, Missouri. For information visit www.c2er.org.
- Employment and Training Administration will host a Recover and Re-employment Forum on May 27-28, 2009 at the Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel, Atlanta, GA. For registration information visit: www.reemploymentworks.workforce3one.org/page/regions

Project Working Mom...and Dads, Too

E-Learners, an on-line educational website, is part of a select group of online colleges and universities that have teamed up to support a program called Project Working Mom. The schools have committed to providing 65 full-tuition scholarships totaling up to \$2 million dollars to working moms and dads to help them further their education and obtain their degrees.

Facts:

- 80% of working mothers lack the education to advance in a career.
- Women comprise 46% of labor force.
- **10,404,000** households are headed by women.
- 60% of working moms make less than \$30,000 per year.
- 83% of single mothers have a high school diploma; 33% of single mothers have some college education; 16% of single mothers have a bachelor's degree or higher.
- 60.7% of mothers with children under the age of 3 work.
- Women's labor force participation is expected to grow to over 2.3 million in 2015

Project Working Mom scholarships will be awarded in May, 2009. For more information visit www.elearners/projectworkingmom/

(source: www.elearners/projectworkingmom/)

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Northwest Georgia
 Region 1



Northwest Georgia One-Stop System—An equal opportunity program/equal opportunity employer of the NW Georgia Workforce Investment Board & Coosa Valley/North Georgia Council of Chief Elected Officials & a proud partner of America's Workforce Network. Auxiliary aids available upon request.



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