

Area Youth Service Providers Meet in Calhoun



Mr. Weisstein with Gene Clark and Allan Whitehead, NWGA Youth Council

Members of various youth and educational organizations in Northwest Georgia met this month at Coosa Valley Technical College in Calhoun to participate in a discussion with Ephraim Weisstein about the changing world and how it will effect the future of our youth. Mr. Weisstein is Vice President of The Center for Youth Development and Education. Points discussed were:

- Dropouts cost our nation more than \$260 billion dollars in lost wages, taxes and productivity over their lifetimes.
- Every nine seconds in America a student drops out; 2,500 per day leave school.
- High school students from the lowest 20% of socio-economic families dropped out of school at six times the rate of their peers from higher-income families.
- Nationally, only 70% of students graduate from high school within four years.
- Over four million youth ages 18-24 are neither employed nor in school—1% of all young adults.
- Of those who do graduate, as few as 1/3 can do college-level work.
- Of those who fail to graduate with their peers, 1/4 eventually earn a diploma, 1/4 earn the GED, and about 1/2 do not earn a high school credential.
- Less than 11% of GED recipients complete even one year of college.
- Increasing the high school completion rate by 1% for all men ages 20-60 would save the US \$1.4 billion annually in reduced costs associated with crime.



Grant Awarded to Career Academy

Floyd County School's College and Career Academy has been awarded a \$3.2 million grant. The academy helps provide students with a seamless transition between high school and college by giving them hands-on training. Floyd County will use this grant money, coupled with other in-kind donations and contributions, to build an additional 16,000 square foot building on the campus of the Floyd County Technical High School. This building will house the automated manufacturing and industrial systems labs for the Floyd County School's College and Career Academy.

Businesses have found that partnering with the Career Academies provide a uniquely relevant and prepared workforce. The Floyd County Schools College and Career Academy, through an online needs assessment, will identify the needs of employers in the community and match the education being taught at the academy.

The Academy will focus on integrating high school academics and advanced career education programs. As a result, high school students will be exposed to the requirements of college coursework and the expectations of business and industry.

Changes to WIB Schedule

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the WIB meeting is scheduled for December 12. In addition, BJ's Restaurant has been closed because of fire damage sustained last month and will not be open by December 12th. The new location for the December meeting is the Sara Hightower Regional Library in Rome. Please contact Terri if you need directions tmorgan@cvrdc.org.

Energy Conference to Be Held in Rome

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) will host a conference on "Renewable Energy & Energy Efficient Technologies" in Rome on January 23-25, 2008. One area of focus will be the need to develop the nation's future workforce. Currently the U.S. has a shortage of skilled craftsmen and utility workers. This is posing a challenge for the energy industry. Upgrades to worker's skills will be required to meet the needs of the emerging "green" technologies. For conference information please call 1-800-444-1834 or visit www.romegeorgia.org.



The **WIA program at Northwestern Technical College** would like to congratulate Cindy Corbitt for a job well done in the PBLA national competition in Chicago IL. Cindy placed first in Business Ethics category of competition along with her partner Joseph Culbert. Both students are Chattooga County natives and are proud to bring this title home for their college and community.

Cindy worked at Mount Vernon Mills in Trion Georgia for thirteen years, performing various jobs that included loom creeler, weaver, and weaving manager. In May 2006, due to a lack of work in the mill, she found herself unemployed. Facing the task of finding a job and with no marketable job skills, she decided to go back to school.

With the guidance of Diane Mayes, WIA Service Coordinator, and the WIA program, Cindy was able to enroll in classes at Northwestern Technical College. Cindy has used this opportunity to achieve multiple accomplishments. She has been on the Presidents List throughout her student career and she has also been named a GOAL nominee. She is very active on campus participating in PBLA, and SLC. She has been inducted into the National Technical Honor Society as well as becoming a National PBLA winner. Congratulations, Cindy.

TWO NORTHWEST GEORGIA COLLEGE PRESIDENTS RETIRING IN 2007

Dr. Harlon Crimm, President of Chattahoochee Technical College, is retiring November 30, 2007 after having served CTC as president for 24 years. The announcement was made to graduating students at the Spring 2007 commencement ceremony.

"As I approach 67 years of life, 44 years of service to education and 24 years as president of Chattahoochee Technical College, along with an already completed 35 year career with the U.S. Air Force Reserve, it is now time to culminate my career in public service", he told the commencement audience.

President Crimm brought the college enrollment in the late 1990's from 1,200 students to over 6,000 students in 2007. The college expanded during that period of time from one campus in Marietta to four campuses including, East Cobb, South Cobb, and Paulding counties. One of his proudest accomplishments is the college achieving accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1988. The achievement brought major credibility to the institution and set the stage for future growth and expansion.



Dr. James Burran will be retiring effective December 31, 2007. Dr. Burran joined then Dalton College as it's third president in May 1995. He has served in the University System of Georgia for almost 30 years.

"It has been my singular privilege to be associated with such a talented and dedicated group of faculty, staff, and students. The progress we have achieved together has laid the foundation for even bigger and better things at DSC."

During Dr. Burran's time at DSC, the institution's name was changed to Dalton State College in order to reflect it's new mission as a bachelor's degree-granting institution. DSC currently offers seven bachelor's degree majors as well as comprehensive technical and associate degree programs of study. The college enrolled 4350 credit students during fall semester 2006 and attracts about 8000 non-credit participants each year.



Northwest Georgia owes both of these men thanks for their years of service and dedication to the people of the northwest Georgia region and their support of the Workforce Investment Act programs.



On November 12, The Workforce Alliance and over 125 other endorsing organizations launched the national Skills2Compete campaign, which seeks a new 21st-century

skills guarantee. Hundreds of organizations were on hand to launch the campaign including featured speakers from the National Association of Manufacturers and the International Association of Machinists. Learn more at www.Skills2Compete.org.

The launch is also now available for viewing on YouTube. Hear comments from the diverse group of allies who spoke on the webinar.

(source www.workforcealliance.org)

Dates to Remember

- **Workforce Investment Board Meeting**, December 12, 2007, **Rome, GA** 12:00 noon. Preceded by the **Youth Council meeting @ 11:00** and the **Proposal Review Committee @ 11:30**. Location is the **Sara Hightower Regional Library in Rome**. For information call Terri @ 706-295-6485.
- **National Association of Job Training Assistance (NAJA)**, Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, LA, January 16-18, 2008, 1-888-627-7033.
- **Appalachian Regional Commission Conference**, “Renewal Energy & Energy Efficient Technologies”, Rome, GA, January 23-25, 2008. For information call 1-800-444-1834 or visit www.romegeorgia.org.
- **Tri-State Collaborative Meeting**, February 12, 2008. For information call Terri @ 706-295-6485



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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.



To submit articles to the Career Depot, email Susan Gentry at susang@cvrdc.org. To submit articles to The Business Informer, email Karen Howell at vandy88@aol.com. Or mail submissions to CVRDC, P.O. Box 1793, Rome, GA 30162-1793.