

Georgia Work Ready Certificate Program

Northwest Georgia area technical colleges have begun administering the Georgia Work Ready Certificate Program assessment tests. Job seekers can now take the Work Keys Reading, Locating Information, and Math assessments to better match their skill level to job openings. They have the opportunity to achieve a Bronze, Silver, or Gold certificate which will be recognized by participating employers. This certificate will help employers determine which applicants are the best qualified for available jobs within their organization. To view employers using the Work Ready program visit www.gaworkready.org. The Georgia Work Ready Program is free to all citizens of Georgia. Job seekers who take the assessments and then wish to improve their skill level will be offered free on-line training to improve their assessment results. In addition, instructor led training will be available at affordable prices through the Technical College System of Georgia.

Each college also has available for employers a job profiler who will determine the required skill level for the profiled job. The profile will be free to employers who have 15 or more new job openings within one job classification.

For information about the program please contact the technical college in your area. Contact information is listed in the Updates section below.

U P D A T E S

Work Ready Certificate Program Contact List

For Adult Job Seekers:

Appalachian Technical College—Jonathan Warner/Diane Ingram
706-253-4522
Chattahoochee Technical College—Alex Ferdinand 770-975-4017
Coosa Valley Technical College—Pete McDonald 706-295-6960
North Metro Technical College—Connie Smith 770-975-4017
Northwestern Technical College—Patty Hart 706-764-3700
West Central Technical College—Phil Carter 770-537-6055

For Youth Job Seekers:

Northwestern Technical College—Vince Stalling 706-764-3726 (Pilot Site only)

New Full Service One Stops for Region One



Northwest Georgia is operating three new full service One Stops in the Region. They will be located at the

Fort Oglethorpe Career Center, the Cedartown Career Center, and the Lafayette Career Center. The addition of the new One Stop Centers will complete the process of making all Career Centers in Northwest Georgia full service One Stops.

WIRED Grant Update

The WIRED grant submission by the Tri-State Collaboration (Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee), although approved by each state Governor to be submitted, was not chosen as a finalist for the grant funding.

WIA FACING POSSIBLE RESCISSION OF \$335 MILLION

The House Appropriations Committee marked up its FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill this month by accepting by voice vote to rescind \$335 million from WIA carryover funds and move the funds to IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). This amendment was accepted without objection. If this rescission passes it will have a devastating impact on local workforce systems resulting in possible One Stop Center closures across the country and reduced training availability. However, the Senate previously funded WIA at current levels in its bill. More information will be provided as this progresses.

GEORGIA IMMIGRATION LAW CHANGES

The Georgia Security and Immigration Compliance Act (SB529) became law on July 1, 2007. The Act requires citizenship verification for individuals using Georgia's public services. All individuals receiving state benefits must sign an affidavit stating either they are a US citizen or a legal alien. All legal alien affidavits will be checked in the federal SAVE program database to verify lawful eligibility for public benefits. The law does make exemptions for prenatal and emergency care.

The law also requires citizenship verification of state employees and state contractors and subcontractors. The law became effective July 1, 2007 for employers with 500+ employees, July 1, 2008 for employers with 100+ employees, and July 1, 2009 for employers with less than 100 employees. After January 1, 2008 employers may not use as an allowable business expense undocumented employees compensated over \$600 annually. In addition, six percent state withholding tax must be withheld for all non-resident aliens.

Lastly, the law:

- authorizes the Department of Public Safety Commissioner to enter into an MOU with the US Department of Justice concerning the enforcement of immigration laws;
- creates the offense and established penalties for human trafficking and contributing to human trafficking;
- required that jail personnel check the legal status of those who are charged with a felony or DUI and notify Immigration and Customs Enforcement if the individual is not legally in the US; and
- limits the services a for-profit immigration assistance company can provide and criminalizes certain actions.

CHANGES MADE TO THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE RATE

\$5.85 per hour
JULY 24, 2007

\$6.55 per hour
Beginning JULY 24, 2008

\$7.25 per hour
Beginning JULY 24, 2009

GREEN JOBS ACT PASSES COMMITTEE

The Green Jobs Act of 2007 (H.R.2847), the bill which includes the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Worker Training Program within the Workforce Investment Act, made it out of the U.S. House Education and Labor Committee last week. This is the first step in the House toward providing job training every year for about 35,000 U.S. workers (and would-be workers) in green and clean industries.

Twenty percent of the program's \$125 million appropriation would be dedicated to services that create pathways out of poverty for low-income adults and youth.

(Source: www.workforcealliance.org)

Dates to Remember

- **Northwest Georgia Youth Council Meeting**, September 12, 2007, Calhoun, GA 12:00 noon @ BJ's Restaurant. For information call Terri, 706-295-6485.
- **SETA Fall Conference 2007**, Omni Hotel, Atlanta, GA September 16-19, 2007. For information visit www.seta.org.
- **Workforce Investment Board Meeting**, September 19, 2007, Calhoun, GA 12:00 noon @ BJ's Restaurant. For information call Terri @ 706-295-6485
- **Northwest Georgia Drop Out Summit**, September 28, 2007, location to be announced. For information call Terri @ 706-295-6485.
- **Georgia Workforce Conference**, Savannah International Trade and Convention Center, Savannah, GA, December 5-7, 2007.

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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.



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.