

Building the Next Workforce

A discussion Forum was held February 16th in Dalton at the Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center. The discussion forum was hosted by the Northwest Georgia Workforce Investment Board in partnership with the State Workforce Investment Board, Georgia Department of Labor, Southern Growth Policies Board, the Tennessee Valley Authority, North Georgia Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), and several other regional Partners.

More than 60 participants attended from the region which includes the 15 northwestern counties in Georgia. Attendees

included members of the Workforce Investment Board, representatives from local business, colleges, student government associations, county board of education members, and city/county government representatives. The discussions focused on education, workforce traits, industry needs, and issues of regional importance. Also discussed was Georgia's new Certified Work Ready Program.

The Southern Growth Policy Board will be analyzing the results of the meeting and will publicize it at a later date. Similar discussions will take place in 11 other Georgia regions.

WIB Meeting Presentation by Kids Count 2006

The Northwest Georgia Workforce Investment Board was presented information about Georgia Kids Count 2006, a program of the Family Connection Partnership, at its January board meeting. The presenter, Taifa Butler, spoke about how Georgia's Kids Count measures how children and families are faring in the state. The count includes national, state, and county-level data, as well as Census data by legislative districts.

Out of 10 national indicators, Georgia ranked 44th. These indicators included child and teen deaths, high school dropouts, children in single-parent families, and infant mortality. Taifa showed county maps of teen births and repeat teen births, showing that the teen mother is not being educated even after the first pregnancy. The presentation included information on children living in poverty, education statistics in Georgia such as high school graduation percentages and HOPE scholarship eligibility statistics by county.

The numbers are startling and Taifa stressed the need for the workforce community's support in addressing these problems. These children are the workforce of tomorrow. Families and schools need support in improving the education and the quality of life for Georgia's children.

Georgia Kids Count 2006 has an interactive website at www.gafcp.org/kidscount. For more information contact William Valladares, Communications Coordinator for Family Connection Partnership at 404-527-7394 or william@gafcp.org.

Tri-State Collaborative Sign MOU

After months of planning and meeting workforce development entities from Southeast Tennessee, Northeast Alabama, and Northwest Georgia have developed and signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that lays the ground work for regional collaboration.

Issues that the group plan to address are better business services, competitiveness in a global environment, development of a well trained and educated workforce and ways to draw national attention to the tri-state area.



U P D A T E S

Dislocation Update

Layoffs and closings will claim more jobs for Northwest Georgia. State Mutual in Floyd county will be laying off approximately 34 jobs while Mohawk Industries will be laying off more than 50.

Beginning in April, Springs Manufacturing in Calhoun will be closing its doors and laying more than 350 employees between April and December 2007.

Work Ready Certificate Program Update

At the end of January, the state implemented Georgia's Work Ready Program. The WorkKeys System, developed by ACT, was chosen as the vehicle for assessment. Georgia businesses will be profiled using the WorkKeys grading scale. This will determine what skills will be needed for each job. Employees can take the skill assessment for WorkKeys at area technical colleges to determine their skill level and which jobs they match up to. Each community can apply to be a work ready community. For more information visit www.gaworkready.org.

March 15, 2007 - Deadline for counties to apply to be a Georgia Certified Work Ready Demonstration Community.

April 30, 2007 - Deadline for counties to sign up to be a Georgia Certified Work Ready Community.

Dates to Remember

- **Georgia Work Ready Deadlines—March 15, 2007** - Deadline for counties to apply to be a Georgia Certified Work Ready Demonstration Community. **April 30, 2007** - Deadline for counties to sign up to be a Georgia Certified Work Ready Community. For more information visit www.gaworkready.org.
- **Northwest Georgia Youth Council, March 14, 2007** at 12:00 noon, at BJ's Restaurant, Calhoun, GA, (706) 295-6485
- **Northwest Georgia Workforce Investment Board Meeting, March 21, 2007** at B.J.'s Restaurant, Calhoun, GA, (706) 295-6485.
- **Business Services Fair, March 22, 2007**, 11:00-2:00, Cartersville Career Center, 19 Felton Pace, Cartersville, GA 30120. For information call (770) 387-3760.
- **Southeastern Employment and Training Association (SETA), April 1 - 4, 2007**, Greensboro, NC, for more information visit the website <http://www.seta.org/default.cfm?id=360>
- **C2ER 47th Annual Conference - "Re-Energizing Communities and Economies: Research as the Foundation"**, (C2ER was formerly ACCRA), **June 5 - 8, 2007**, Denver, CO, for more information visit <http://www.c2er.org/conference.asp>.

Fall Graduates of the CDF Classes

Congratulations to the following WIA staff and providers that completed the fall sessions of the Career Development Facilitator training through Project IDEAS (KSU). Phyllis Walker, Lesia Lambert, Bernice Jackson (all of CVRDC), Stacey Mullis (Mercy Senior Care), Y'londa Campbell (Rome Career Center), and Lynne Reese, (NW Georgia RESA). Congratulations to all!

Business Services Forum

A business services forum will take place on Thursday, March 22, 2007 at the Cartersville Career Center from 11:00-2:00. Representatives will be available to answer questions about UI tax laws, employment services, disabilities in the work place, immigration control enforcement and more. There will be refreshments and door prizes. For more information visit call Jennifer Stephens at (770) 387-3760.

Local Student Awarded a \$1600 Mini-scholarship

The Georgia Learning Resource System, in January, announced they had awarded a \$1600 mini-scholarship to Mitchell Moody. Mitchell has been working in a Youth Apprenticeship position with the Polk County School System since November 2005 through the collaborative efforts of the Coosa valley Regional Development Center, Workforce Development Program and Northwest Georgia RESA. This scholarship will enable him to continue working and training with the Polk County School System, under the Youth Apprenticeship Program. Mitchell wants to pursue a career in automobile mechanics after his high school graduation in May 2007.

Part of the Federal "No Child Left Behind" legislation requires that the public education system prepare students for life beyond high school. This scholarship will allow Mitchell to transition into the "real world of work" and gain valuable work skills through hands-on-training opportunities.

The Northwest Georgia RESA Youth Apprenticeship program has a success rate of 100% in skills attainment and high school graduation rates for those students co-enrolled in the WIA Program. The training that Mitchell, and other students in the apprenticeship program, receive have been proven to be a huge asset as they continue their training and/or employment beyond the high school level.

A special thank you is given to Dr. Cassandra Allen, Director of Georgia Learning Resource System, and to Ms. Lynne Reese, Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator at Northwest Georgia RESA, for their assistance in obtaining this scholarship for Mitchell. Any questions regarding the Youth Apprenticeship Program should be directed to Ms. Reese, at (706)295-6189, extension 26.

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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.