

## Summer Youth Program a Success



**Ryan Harper**  
Gilmer High School

Continuing a very successful 2009 program, the Workforce Investment System in the State of Georgia was awarded a 2010 Summer Youth Job Program funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Following eligibility assessment of approximately 1,200 youth in Region 1, 796 youth were placed in a work environment in which they developed work readiness skills and cultivated an interest in continuing their education and/or career. Program funds were distributed through the Georgia Department of Human Resources, and \$1.3 million in Region 1 participant

wages were administered by NWGRC.

Gilmer High School graduate Ryan Harper, just one of numerous success stories, began his career with his assignment at the Gilmer County Detention Center (no gun, of course). While continuing his work at the Center, he is attending college to study Law Enforcement, and according to Capt. Carol Daves, "We are thrilled to have him."

*"Even if something is left undone, everyone must take time to sit still and watch the leaves turn."*

- Elizabeth Lawrence



## THURMOND PRESENTED AWARD



Georgia Department of Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond thanked onlookers for his *Award of Appreciation* that was presented during the Commission's recent Council meeting by WIB Chair Butch Jones (L) and Allen Poole, Chairman, Coosa Valley/North

Georgia Council of Chief Elected Officials. The award read, "During his term as Commissioner he has demonstrated a fair approach to distributing Georgia's allocation of Federal Workforce Investment funds and, particularly, toward the recent 'federal stimulus' allocations, that definitely take into consideration Northwest Georgia's high unemployment problems."

## USDOL COBRA ANNOUNCEMENT

The U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration has updated the dedicated COBRA Web page to add a fact sheet to provide tips for individuals whose 15 month COBRA premium subsidy ends before their regular COBRA coverage ends, in order to help them maintain health coverage. In particular, it is important that individuals understand that they will need to make the full COBRA premium payment in order to maintain their COBRA coverage after the subsidy ends. The fact sheet also notes some other coverage options to consider. The fact sheet is available at <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/newsroom/fsExpiringSubsidy.html>

Questions? Contact EBSA toll free at 1-866-444-3272.

EBSA also has a dedicated Web site that explains the COBRA premium reduction subsidy ([www.dol.gov/ebsa/cobra.html](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/cobra.html)).



Dignitaries and guests recently assisted GA Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Whitfield County One-Stop-Shop. Thurmond (C) is flanked by Pete McDonald (L) of Northwest GA Technical College and Gwen Dellinger (R) of NWGRC.

## Region 1 Nominee Presented State Professionalism Award

Rules did not come into play when Butch Jones was presented the Aray Darden Workforce Development Professional Award by Georgia Department of Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond during the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting. NWGRC's Gwen Dellinger, who submitted the nomination, wrote, "For those of us who appreciate the spirit of the Workforce Development Professional Award because of the unique servant for whom it was named, we know that there are times when the rules do not apply."

Although the award criteria require that a nominee be employed through a Georgia Workforce Area or one of the WIA area service providers, Butch Jones' outstanding volunteer contribution to Georgia WIA made his

nomination appropriate. In addition to his leadership in a variety of local arenas, Jones' volunteerism has included service as a Youth Council Chairperson, Workforce Investment Board Chairperson, Georgia Workforce Leadership Association (GWLA) Chairperson, and JTPA board member. He has been an advocate to the Georgia Department of Labor and the Governor's Office of Workforce Development through his leadership of GWLA for workforce initiatives, policies, and monies, and serves as Governor's appointee to NWGRC Council and numerous other organizations. Recently elected Chairperson of the Tri-State Regional Workforce Alliance, Inc., Mr. Jones is now seeking to define how regions can work together across state lines for the betterment of their citizens.



**Georgia Department of Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond surprises Butch Jones with presentation of Aray Darden Workforce Development Professional Award**

Spend your unused ARRA funds for staff development at the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP)

2010 Youth Development Symposium  
November 8-10  
Sheraton Chicago Hotel

Registration Cutoff: Oct. 15  
[www.nawdp.org](http://www.nawdp.org)

• **October 24-26**

**Atlanta Lowes Hotel**

**EDA/ETA REGIONAL WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

Building competitive and resilient regional economies based on diversification, entrepreneurship, and innovation for public and private sector leaders from workforce, economic development, strategic planning and local governments. Registration info - Philip Paradise, Jr., 404-730-3019 Hotel reservations: <http://www.loewshotels.com/en/Booking/RoomTypeSelection>. Enter in box requiring Code: SEDO24

• **October 25-27**

**The Forum, Rome, GA**

**APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION CONFERENCE**

Retooling the workforce, expanding instructional capacity through technology, building a healthy and educated workforce, and supporting entrepreneurial training. Registration info - [conferences@arc.gov](mailto:conferences@arc.gov) or 202-884-7700

• **October 19<sup>th</sup> Macon OR**

**October 21<sup>st</sup> Kennesaw**

**CAREERSCOPE WORKSHOP: *Using the Assessment & Reports***

Full Day \$95.00 or CS Basics - \$75.00 / CS "Beyond the Report" - \$35.00

Registration info - Franklin Duncan - 954-467-1670 or [bfduncan@FranklinDuncan.com](mailto:bfduncan@FranklinDuncan.com)

• **September 28 - 29**

**Morehouse College, Atlanta**

***Strengthening Families: INVESTING IN FATHERHOOD FORUM***

U. S. Department of Health & Human Services/Administration for Children & Families, Region IV, Morehouse College, Region IV Head Start Association, Georgia Head Start Association, State of Georgia Office of Child Support Enforcement, & Life Support Inc. of South Carolina, designed specifically for faith and community-based organizations, healthy marriage community coalitions, fatherhood programs, families, state and local human service agencies, and various practitioners.

Registration is free, **but is required for all participants**, no later than Wednesday, September 22, By e-mail to: [kperkins@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:kperkins@acf.hhs.gov) or fax to 404- 562-2982. Registration info - Gwen Johnson: 404-562-2835 or Danny Osburn: 404-562-2818

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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 [sgentry@nwgrc.org](mailto:sgentry@nwgrc.org). To submit articles to The Business Informer email Terri Morgan at [tmorgan@nwgrc.org](mailto:tmorgan@nwgrc.org). Or mail submissions to NWGRC, P.O. Box 1798, Rome, GA 30162