

BLUEGRASS WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

"Connecting employers with employees"

www.bgadd.org

Monthly Newsletter

December 8th, 2011

Business Business Services

Job Orders

The Business Services staff are actively working with participants to secure employment with local companies. As part of that assistance 137 new job orders were posted for 75 employers.

On-the-Job Trainings

Two new On-the-Job Training (OJT) contracts were developed in November for employers in Danville and Lexington.

Application Screenings

There are currently 2 companies utilizing application screening representing employers in Scott and Madison Counties.

Computerized Assessments

Four employers utilized 89 computerized assessments administered through the various Career Center locations.

Customized Trainings

There were no Customized Trainings for the month of November.

Rapid Response

There were no Rapid Responses conducted in the month of November.

Job Fairs

Staff participated in five job fairs/hiring events during the month of November: General Electric Lamp Plant of Lexington, ACE in Lexington, Loram Maintenance of Way, Inc of Richmond, Loram Railroad Group of Danville and the Paul Sawyer Library Career Fair. A total of 187 individuals attended the 5 events.

Business Development

Business Services Specialists continue to develop relationships with businesses in the Bluegrass Area.

Chamber of Commerce

The Business Services Staff attended 6 Chamber of Commerce events during the month of November in Madison, Clark, Mercer and Scott counties.

A presentation was made on the business services

offered through the Central Kentucky Career Centers to the Clark County Chamber of Commerce on November 17th.

Community Events

The Business Services Staff attended 2 Community Events; the Scott County Community Connection on November 16th and 2011 Advantage Plan Presentation hosted by the Hometown Radio Network of Danville on November 30th.

Fiscal Court Meetings

The Business Services Staff attended 2 Fiscal Court meetings during the month of November in Boyle and Fayette counties.

Economic Development/Industrial Authority

The Business Services Staff attended 3 meetings with the following Economic and Industrial area leaders: Madison County Industrial Managers Club (MCIMC) Executive Board meeting on November 1st and 2nd, and the Danville/Boyle County Economic Development Authority on November 30th.

Onsite Employer Visits

The Business Services Staff visited 19 employers during the month of November in the following counties: Boyle, Garrard, Fayette, Franklin, Madison, and Scott counties.

Onsite Employer Visits

The Business Services made 21 new business contacts during the month of November.

HIRE Update

Two new participants were added to the HIRE Internship Program; both individuals were placed at Eastern State Hospital one in the position of Medical Records Clerk and one as a Mental Health Associate.

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Career Center

Updates

Danville

December is expected to be one of the busiest months, due to weather and temporary lay-offs. Currently, the Career Center is averaging 160 people per day, with more than 200 on Mondays.

The Career Center of Danville will be assisting with the workforce needs of several business expansions and openings over the next year, including 174 new positions with DanaCorp, 74 new positions with American Greetings, and the possible opening of a new business, NeoStar LLC, which plans on hiring 50 individuals in the first year and increasing to 300 by its third year.

Frankfort

WIA Staff provided 2 resume workshops during the month of November. All clients in attendance left the training with an updated resume.

On November 29th, Cairo Employment Services held a job fair onsite.

During the monthly partners meeting the topic of discussion was how to better serve clients through seamless partnering. The partners of the Career Center in Frankfort will continue to improve their partnership through regular communication and information sharing.

Georgetown

The Georgetown Career Center continues to hold resume classes every other Thursday, as well as continued computerized testing for a variety of local employers.

The partners of the Career Center in Georgetown attended a Partners for Success training, during the month of November. This training provided program information sharing to ensure the Career Center meet the needs of customers. Breakout sessions included; "Overcoming Barriers", "Case Management", "Sector Strategies", and "Transition Services". Information from the sessions will be provided for those who were unable to attend.

Lexington

For the month of November, 4,612 individuals visited the Career Center for assistance, 37 of those were interested in learning more about the WIA Program, and 258 utilized the Job Search Room. Staff in the Job Search Room also assisted 10 individuals with WorkKeys assessments.

Resume classes were offered every Wednesday throughout the month of November, all individuals who

attended the Resume classes left with an updated resume.

ACS held interviews onsite at the Career Center in Lexington on November 15th.

NEG Job Readiness classes were held every Monday in November. These classes provide information and training on client resumes, job searching skills, interviewing skills, professionalism in the workplace, and how to dress for success.

During the November partners meetings, new staff from the Office for Vocational Rehabilitation and Adult Education were introduced. Kelly Merin (OVR) is a new counselor, who will be sharing job duties with Cassandra Knight at the Career Center. Wade Outland (Adult Ed.) was also introduced beginning in January he will be here 30 hours per week. Becky Haley is still the Site Coordinator but will be working out of the Leestown Campus with the Accelerating Opportunities Program.

Richmond

The staff of the Career Center in Richmond assisted clients in the Resource Room with various needs including Focus Career registration and resume assistance.

The Office of Employment and Training have been conducting the new Consumer Satisfaction surveys twice a week and feedback has been good.

Winchester

Two resume workshops were held during the month of November, all attendees left with an updated resume.

The monthly Re-Employment Workshop continues to be a success, the last workshop was held at BCTC on November 17th.

Mobile Career Center

During the month of November, the Mobile Career Center held 5 Resume Workshops and FocusCareer Self-Registration classes. A total of 84 individuals were assisted through these classes. In addition National College of Danville, Lexington, and Richmond utilized the Mobile Career Center. The Mobile Career Center Coordinator has several special events coming up with Novelis Manufacturing of Berea, the Harrodsburg Herald and Bluegrass Army Depot, including Basic and Advanced Excel and a Resume Workshop.

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Youth Services

Older Youth

Career Track is a program designed to help individuals 19-21 years old (Madison County also serves 16 - 18 year olds) that wish to improve their quality of life. The program provides one-on-one services, such as; career counseling, GED assistance, resume writing, interviewing skills training, and job search assistance.

CareerTrack continues the marketing campaign for the program redesign. In November, the CareerTrack Coordinators continued to visit several agencies to distribute flyers. The CareerTrack staff has worked diligently on the development of workshops that will be offered for new clients. Workshops will provide clients with Work Readiness Skills, as well as soft skills to sustain employment.

Younger Youth

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Program currently has four younger youth programs in the Bluegrass Region: TREK, WIN, Back on Track and YIP. These programs serve out-of-school youth or in-school youth and are operated in several different counties.

TREK

The TREK program serves out-of-school youth in Clark, Estill and Powell counties.

During the month of November, the TREK program had 4 students receive their GED credential and 4 students with Literacy/Numeracy Gains.

During the month of November there has been an intense focus on students attaining their GED. The students of the TREK program were taken to Clothing from the Heart, as well as, a tour of Bluegrass Community and Technical College's Winchester campus. Youth also attended a tour of Berea College which included dinner and "Turandot" a play presented by the Berea College Theatre Laboratory. The TREK program joined YIP for a day retreat at Youth Haven Camp in Lee County where they practiced in several events for the annual regional competition.

WIN

The WIN program serves out-of-school youth in Franklin County.

Currently, WIN has 5 students with Literacy/Numeracy Gains, 4 students that received their GED and 3 students that gained employment during the month of November.

The month of November focused on preparing students for their GED test. A total of 7 students took the GED test during the month, with 4 passing. Three students took the test on the last day of the month and have not had their results reported.

Back on Track

Back on Track program serves out-of-school youth in Scott County.

Currently, Back on Track has 3 students with Literacy/Numeracy Gains and 2 students that received their GED in the month of November.

Back on Track students focused on their studies in the month of November. Back on Track is pleased to report that some students requested extra classes and extra homework. Several students began helping their fellow classmates through tutoring within a lab-style classroom. The improvement and increase in self-esteem in some of the students was apparent.

YIP

Eleven Powell County High School youth and 9 Estill County High School youth had report cards with C's during their last reporting period.

Thirteen youth were taken for a tour of Alice Lloyd College; 7 youth participated in the Clothes from the Heart/BCTC tour. Students of YIP attended a dinner and play at Berea College, with students of the TREK program.



Students of the Back on Track Program at a recent outing, November 2011.

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Re-Entry Program

Updates

"Steppin' to a New Beat"

The Re-Entry Program is dedicated to the purpose of guiding the released man or woman into the process of transitioning back into the community, or to keep from becoming a potential inmate. Ex-offenders will participate in workshops lasting 12 weeks.

In the month of November, the "Steppin' to a New Beat" Re-Entry program had 75 individuals seeking assistance, 37 of those were Child Support participants. The program enrolled 11 new participants and 6 participants gained employment.

Prison to the Streets

Prison to the Streets takes "Steppin' to a New Beat" into the correctional facilities to address re-entry prior to the release of inmates.

As part of the Prison to the Streets program, during the month of November, "Steppin' to a New Beat" participated at Blackburn in the Fathers and Children Together (F.A.C.T.) program. Twenty-five inmates attended 3 re-entry classes. The topics presented covered reunification with children, feelings, guilt, anger, substance abuse, and recidivisms. The F.A.C.T. program was designed as a parenting program for fathers within the prison walls.

CADC Board Meeting

The Re-Entry Specialist is a Board Member of the Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC).

"Steppin' to a New Beat" participated in the CADC Board meeting Frankfort during November. Todd Trembo, CADC member, gave a report on International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC) meeting held in Florida. His recommendations included, computerized testing for individuals seeking their CADC licenses in Kentucky.

Special Child Support Enforcement Court

The Re-Entry Specialist works closely with the Lexington-Fayette County Special Child Support Enforcement Court to assist the participants in repaying their back child support and the expungement of their criminal records.

Judge Bruce Bell held 4 sessions for the month of November. The participants continue to seek better employment in order to increase payments of their Child Support. In addition, the Special Child Support Team accepted 3 new applicants.

Other Events

The Re-Entry Specialist works in partnership with several other Re-Entry related events and programs in the Bluegrass Area.

November 9: The Re-Entry Specialist had the honor of being the Guest Speaker for the Substance Abuse Program (SAP) Drug Court Graduation in Winchester, KY. Eight participants were honored by the Circuit Judge during the graduation.

November 9: The Black Church Coalition of Lexington met at the Second Presbyterian Church. Faith Pharmacy and Maxwell Presbyterian presented on their commitment to serving the community through their services such as: free medication, after school programs, Kids Café, and bus passes.

November 16: "Steppin' to a New Beat" and the Garrard County for Child Support began classes with an orientation for new participants, which included introductions, an overview of the program, and enrollment.

November 17: Karen Martin invited the Re-Entry Specialist to the University of Kentucky White Hall classroom building to do a presentation on "Steppin' to a New Beat" for Social Work majors. Twenty students attended the presentation.

November 18: The Workforce Area Directors met at a local Career Center where the Re-Entry Specialist presented a PowerPoint on the "Steppin' to a New Beat" Re-Entry Program. Kevin Burnett a former participant of the program, current mentor, entrepreneur, and graduate of the Special Child Support Enforcement Court shared his experience and gratitude for the program and his new life.

November 19: Prison Ministry Conference facilitated by Billie Stockton was held at the Episcopal Mission House. Dr. Robert Lawton of the University of Kentucky presented his research on sentencing, recidivism, House Bill 463, and current crime rates.

November 22: There was a Governor Re-Entry Task Force Meeting in Frankfort facilitated by Bridget Adams with more than 50 members in attendance. Secretary J. Michael Brown was the Keynote Speaker. The Re-Entry Specialist presented on the topic of expungement and the high cost that the procedure mandates.

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Success Story Jeffery VonGruenigen

Jeffrey VonGruenigen was a former employee of Philip's Lighting. He began employment in October 1983, and after 27 years of work at Philip's, the plant closed down. Mr. VonGruenigen was considered a Trade affected worker and utilized Central Kentucky Career Center in Danville services to help him with Trade benefits, job search, and unemployment benefits claim filing.

He applied through the Career Center for American Greetings and was placed with an On-the-Job Training (OJT) contract. Upon completion of this OJT, Mr. VonGruenigen was offered full-time employment as a Production Associate with American Greetings. He is now gainfully employed earning a wage of \$11.37/hr plus shift differential.

Success Story Gary Martin

Gary Martin was laid off from Berea Tool and Cutter Grinding Co. in December 2007. He started working with a WIA specialist in January 2009 because he had been unsuccessful obtaining employment with his current skills and education. Gary was approved to pursue secondary education in HVAC through Bluegrass Community and Technical College.

He began classes May 2009 and completed May 2011. Upon completion of his degree in HVAC he obtained employment at Stiver's Heating and Air in June 2011.

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