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PA CareerLink® Holds Job Fair

The PA CareerLinks® of Bradford/Sullivan and Tioga Counties collaborated to hold a job fair linking employers and jobseekers. The November 15, 2012, event at the Vets Club in Troy, PA included twenty-one employers, who were present to discuss employment opportunities with nearly 400 jobseekers. Employers represented a variety of sectors including, but not limited to, healthcare, manufacturing, transportation and service industries.

PA CareerLink® partners also were in attendance to provide information about employment services to both jobseekers and employers including representatives from Bradford/Wyoming literacy, Veterans services, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Bradford County Action and TREHAB. PA CareerLink® staff assisted jobseekers with enrollment and service questions throughout the day.

Feedback provided by those in attendance proved the event a success. Jim Unger, from UPS, said, “I hired 30 people on the spot.” “We only had four weeks to plan this event and didn’t have a lot of time to advertise. The turnout was better than expected and demonstrates the need for events like this in our area,” said Melissa Fleming, PA CareerLink® Site Administrator.

The PA CareerLink® applied for, and secured, funds from the CMS Medicaid Infrastructure grant to help support the event, which was a great success. If you are interested in participating in future PA CareerLink® events, please contact Melissa Fleming at fleming@northerntier.org.

Virginia Schoonover
Employability Specialist

On the cover:
This is Knapp’s Bridge, located on Covered Bridge Road near Luther’s Mills, Bradford County, Pennsylvania. Built in 1853, it is a Burr arch truss style covered bridge. Knapp’s Bridge is said to be the highest covered bridge in Pennsylvania.

Cover photo ©2013 Jason Sitcosky
For many years the Bradford-Wyoming Counties Literacy Program has been working with businesses and industries. The general public’s perception is that people who have reading difficulties or can’t read are isolated and do not interact with the rest of the public. According to the National Assessment of Adult Literacy Survey of 2003, 93 million adults do not have the literacy skills to participate fully in society. Of those, 30 million have below basic literacy skills, which means they have no more than the most simple and concrete literacy skills, such as signing a form or adding up a bank deposit slip. Adult illiteracy costs US businesses and taxpayers an estimated $20 billion annually in lost wages, profit, and productivity.

The Bradford-Wyoming County Literacy Program, an accredited affiliate of ProLiteracy, trains volunteer tutors and provides free and confidential “one to one” tutoring in basic reading, writing, math, and English as a Second Language. Volunteer tutors usually meet once or twice a week for approximately two hours at a church, school, or library in their community. For businesses and industries, the tutoring can take place on-site and in small groups if needed.

The Bradford-Wyoming program works with businesses and industries to provide “one to one” tutoring or small groups in either basic reading or English as a Second Language (ESL) for employees. Currently, the Literacy Program is working with two businesses in Bradford County to provide workplace ESL instruction.

If any business or industry would like further information, please contact Sherry Spencer, Program Director, Bradford-Wyoming Counties Literacy Program, by phone at 570-297-3375 or by email at literacy@bradfordco.org to discuss basic reading, writing, math or ESL instruction. The Bradford-Wyoming Counties Literacy Program office, located in Towanda at 200 Main St., Suite 5, serves all of Bradford and Wyoming Counties and is a member agency of the United Way of Bradford County.

Sherry Spencer
Program Director

![Graph showing New Participants between Q1 and Q4 of 2011 and 2012 with 5% Increase](chart.png)
Legislation authored by Rep. Stan Saylor (R-York) that would enable unemployed workers to more easily land a new job was passed by the House of Representatives June 13, 2012.

The measure, House Bill 1539, established the Keystone Works program, a new gateway to employment for those who have lost their jobs or have difficulty finding work in this challenging economy. The voluntary program provides job-specific training by connecting interested unemployed persons with businesses seeking to hire for open positions.

Businesses participating in Keystone Works pay no compensation to the trainee. Training can be conducted for up to 24 hours per week up to eight weeks. Trainees are prescreened by PA CareerLink® staff to meet criteria outlined by the business in their training plan. Trainees who complete the program will receive up to 192 hours of training, enabling them to immediately be productive if hired at the end of the training period.

Businesses who hire trainees out of the program are eligible to receive monetary incentives up to $375 for every four weeks the trainee is employed full-time, up to a total of $1,500 per trainee hired.

Pennsylvania UC claimants with enough remaining eligible weeks of regular state-funded UC to meet or exceed the length of training will be able to participate in training while maintaining their UC benefits. Training must be approved by the Department of Labor & Industry through an application process.

How do businesses benefit? They are matched with pre-screened qualified claimants to fill open positions. Training plans are designed by the business to meet individual needs. Claimants will complete training at business facility and can be productive immediately if hired. There is no cost to participate. Up to $1,500 in cash incentives may be available for hiring claimants that successfully complete training.

How do claimants benefit? They turn training into full-time employment; receive job-specific training; obtain marketable skills; maintain a connection to the workforce; and expand contact networks.

For more information about the program, visit www.dli.state.pa.us/keystoneworks.

For a training application please contact Melissa Fleming at 570-265-2171 or email fleming@northerntier.org.

Julie Bahl
Job Developer
CareerLink Specialist Susette Caldwell and WIA Youth Career Advisor Breanna Repard represented the PA CareerLink® at Mansfield University’s Marcellus Family Career Night. This event was held the evening of October 17, at the Decker gymnasium for students and community members interested in connecting with employers in the natural gas industry.

Spotlighted exhibitors from all aspects of the natural gas industry attended, including state and local agencies, environmental/engineering firms, and educational institutions. Representatives were available to discuss career paths within the natural gas industry and educational opportunities available locally. Breakout sessions were also available preparing individuals for a career within the natural gas industry.

This event gave PA CareerLink® the opportunity to make a connection with the targeted audience, as well as, the industry employers that were represented.

Breanna Repard
Youth Career Advisor

Photo: Breanna Repard and Susette Caldwell
On behalf of the Northeast Regional Health Care Industry Partnership, the Northern Tier Workforce Investment Board has been awarded Healthcare Worker training funds for the 2012-2013 program year. This funding can be used to train health care workers in high priority occupations in Northeast PA. The grant funding will pay for up to 70% of the cost of training with the employer providing a 1 to 1 match, of which 30% must be cash.

Training money is still available for this program year, which ends on June 30, 2013. Employers are encouraged to contact Sherry Felten, Workforce Program Manager at 570-265-1516 or felten@northerntier.org for information on how to apply for training funds.

Since the start of our program year on July 1, 2012 several trainings subsidized with Healthcare Worker Training grant funds have been held in the region.

In October, 2012, staff from Memorial Hospital, The Highlands Care Center and Darway Eldercare completed the CNA certification program at Memorial Hospital in Towanda. Upon successful completion of the program the participants received a wage gain and certification as a Nurse Aide.

Additionally, on November 12-13, 2012, 34 nurses from Guthrie Healthcare Systems and Laurel Health Systems participated in a two-day CCRN review which provided critical care nurses with an essential review of nursing care and interventions, preparing them for the CCRN certification examination.

Finally, on December 1-2, 2012, 17 employees of Guthrie Healthcare Systems and Laurel Health Systems attended the CNOR Exam Review, which will prepare them to successfully take the certification exam in that field.

The Northeast Regional Healthcare Industry Partnership represents the Workforce Investment areas of the Northern Tier, Lackawanna, Luzerne/Schuylkill and the Pocono’s. Currently, there are 64 health care employers that actively participate in the Partnership, which includes every major health care facility in the Northern Tier. To date, Worker training grant funding has been utilized to help upgrade the skills of over 3000 employees in the region. Additionally, thousands of high school students have been educated about health careers through activities funded with Healthcare Industry Partnership dollars.

Sherry Felten
Workforce Program Manager
Pennsy Supply hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony at the newly opened Lawton Asphalt Plant on Monday, September 17 to celebrate the successful commissioning of natural gas service to the plant. Pennsy employees were joined by representatives from Leatherstocking Gas Company of New York, Cabot Oil and Gas, the Williams Energy Companies, State Representative Tina Pickett, and State Senator Gene Yaw. Pennsy Supply, North Region president, Patrick Bartorillo, along with Joe Mirabito of Leatherstocking Gas, had the honor of cutting the ribbon. Pennsy Supply, realizing the value of the natural resource in the area, led the way and became the very first customer in Susquehanna County to utilize the locally derived Marcellus Shale natural gas. Prior to this, all the gas was shipped via pipeline to major markets out of state. When Pennsy contacted Leatherstocking to provide gas, Leatherstocking petitioned the Pennsylvania Utility Commission (PUC) for a franchise to supply gas to local customers in Susquehanna County. They were granted natural gas utility serve status by the PUC for northern Susquehanna County. Pennsy was instrumental in making this gas available to local customers.

Pennsy Supply, Inc. was founded in 1921 to provide quality construction materials to contractors in central Pennsylvania, and in 1993 joined the world wide Oldcastle Materials Group. Oldcastle is the number one producer of asphalt paving material, the third largest producer of aggregate, and one of the top five ready mix suppliers in the United States. In 1999 Pennsy expanded into the Wyoming Valley market via the addition of Slusser Brothers, and in 2011 reached into the Endless Mountain region by the addition of the Powers Stone properties in Susquehanna County. Globally strong but locally managed, its market covers central and northeastern Pennsylvania from Maryland to New York. Having recently dropped the Slusser Brothers name in favor of the main corporate identity of Pennsy Supply, Inc. its local office in Pittston manages the region extending from Hazleton in the south to Montrose in the north. With commitment to quality and service at the core of its company values, Pennsy Supply offers DOT approved aggregate and asphalt materials at its location, including its latest high capacity asphalt plant located at its Lawton quarry.

Pennsy Supply, Inc. is a registered PA CareerLink® employer.

Patti Brown
BST Member, Wyoming County
Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce to Hold Expo in April

The Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce will hold its 2nd Annual Business Job and Gas Expo on Thursday, April 11, 2013 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Wyoming County Fairgrounds. The chamber is currently accepting booth reservations for this event which is co-sponsored by Williams, Southwestern Energy and Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation.

The event provides an opportunity for companies to showcase their products and services, meet and interview potential employees and develop lasting business relationships within the natural gas industry. Over 2,500 visitors attended last year’s event.

The Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary association of area businesses, industries, and professionals. Membership is open to those who reside or do business in or near Wyoming County. This partnership of business persons works toward the advancement and development of the Wyoming County community. TREHAB works with the Chamber to distribute information that benefits local employers.

For more information regarding the Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce please visit www.wyccc.com.

Julie Bahl
Job Developer

If you are interested in having your business in the Northern Tier Business Services Team Quarterly’s "Business Spotlight On..." section, please contact one of the Business Services Team members.

Workforce Links

Unemployment Compensation
UC Information for Employers: 1-866-223-4718
UC Information for Claimants: 1-888-313-7284
Website: www.dli.state.pa.us

The Center for Workforce Information and Analysis (CWIA)
Pennsylvania's Workforce Statistics
Website: http://www.paworkstats.state.pa.us

O*Net Online
Occupation Handbook/Titles; Industry Statistics, etc.
Website: http://online.onetcenter.org

Services and Information for Employers
Link on left margin for "Employers"
Website: www.dli.state.pa.us