



Office of Workforce Development

William F. Demidovich Jr., Deputy Director
Quarterly Newsletter
(October – December 2005)

State News

OWD 2005 Accomplishments

These accomplishments epitomize teamwork and outstanding effort from the staff. Although staffing levels were lower than anticipated due to retirements, the workload remained steady and staff got it done! This was another great year for OWD.

Significant Accomplishments

- Exceeded 15 and Met 2 of the 17 federally mandated Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Performance Measures - A first for Ohio
- DOL Approved 4 WIA Waivers – Streamlined Operations and improved the local workforce investment system throughout Ohio
- Trained 850 staff on WIA/Labor Exchange Common Measures - Ohio has taken the first step and is ahead of the curve by completing Common Measures training statewide. At the federal level, the next step will be consolidated reporting across all programs
- Surveyed over 100 employers and job seekers. Based on feedback, significantly enhanced Sharing Career Opportunities and Training Information (SCOTT) system functionality; Tailored services that helped achieve 10,000 reemployment assessments for Ohioans; Swiftly designed a unique Katrina Website (<http://scoti.ohio.gov/katrina/>) that connected dislocated workers with employers in Ohio seeking to fill multiple vacancies. Governor Taft issued a press release announcing assistance for Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Ohio
- Created the “Ohio Strategic Team” to guide the implementation of Washington’s new Youth Mission and Vision. The vision is in partnership with the Departments of Justice, Health and Human Services, Education and Labor at the federal level; Led an interagency team in the development of a million dollar pilot project to serve youth offenders in Ohio – Aligned the pilot with the federal Vision
- Secured \$20.5 million in National Emergency Grants from the U.S. Department of Labor to assist Ohioans that were affected by disasters and the Base Realignment and Closure; *The Columbus Dispatch* and local newspaper outlets published articles including testimonials from citizens about the effectiveness of the disaster grants; An additional \$5.6M was used to assist over 8,000 workers
- Automated the State’s Eligible Training Provider List – Developed an efficient and tremendous cost savings paper-less solution
- Workforce Services Month – Energized WIA System; First ever for Ohio – showcased local community workforce resources
- One-Stop System Certification - Certified all 19 Systems; Established statewide system infrastructure for facilities and programs
- Implemented a Business Plan approach to enhance the development of 19 local plans for the statewide workforce investment system
- \$10M Reed Act Funds – Expertly managed the funds; resulted in 100% accountability and vital One-Stop System infrastructure improvements in the local areas; State-of-the-Art technology, marketing & outreach helped advance employer and job seeker services
- Labor Market Information (LMI) - Completed a decade of wage record follow-up studies for the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC); resulted in training cost reimbursements of about \$500,000 to \$1 million each year from the federal government
- Teamed with Local Area 3 on the Cleveland Area Workforce Summit; Over 4000 job seekers and 400 business representatives attended the Summit and 80 companies advertised jobs. Developed and analyzed Occupational data projections to the year 2012 for Ohio's Economic Development Regions; projects a snapshot of future high growth industries; Published several research articles and reports on labor market data in major professional publications; Our LMI experts were sought out as trainers and national panelists
- Apprenticeship Program – Registered 84 new programs and 5,134 new apprentices; graduated 2,793 apprentices that are earning over \$5.8M through the Construction, Manufacturing, Public Administration, Automotive, Energy and Social Service industries; The Apprenticeship Program, commonly known as “The Other 4-year degree” is another gateway to employment and a first-class program
- Ohio Training Tax Credit (OTTC) Annual Report – Issued 301 training tax credits to employers, totaling \$20 million; 113,514 incumbent workers attained or retained employable skills; Streamlined the program and increased the participation of small business
- Collaborated with Local Operations to expand outreach to Migrant Seasonal Farm Workers; 1,393 were hired, reflecting 45% of the total placements in the state from July to September
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program (WOTC) – Rated #1 in the Nation for certifications; \$182,251,300 potential tax credit savings for Ohio employers; through innovative thinking and automation, this program area continues to be viewed as a national pacesetter
- Veteran Services Unit – Created unique veterans programs and initiatives that are considered benchmarks nationally to duplicate
- Seven Seals Award – Joe Andry was selected for the Seven Seals Award by the Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) in recognition of achievement, initiative, support of the activation and deployment of the Reserve/Guard component, and promotion of the ESGR mission
- Statewide Apprenticeship, Youth, and Veterans Conferences – Demonstrated Outstanding Planning and Execution
- ODJFS Team of the Month – honors went to WOTC and LMI staff; the award represents ODJFS’ principles and total teamwork
- Rolled out new Innerweb and Internet websites, including enhancements to the very popular www.ohioworkforce.org website
- Director Riley sent OWD a personal note about its very nicely done Newsletter – enhances internal and external communications

SB 190 Extends The Ohio Training Tax Credit (OTTC) Program

SB 190 passed both committee and the full Senate floor. The bill authorizes ODJFS to extend the \$20 million dollar, OTTC Program another year. The program was slated to expire on December 31, 2005.

In the Spring of 2005, the Ohio General Assembly approved a major legislative change to the OTTC Program. A lottery system was implemented in order to determine the distribution of the \$20 million dollars of available training tax credits for employers. With the implementation of the lottery system, more small companies were able to access valuable tax credits to train their incumbent workforce. Previously, a first-come, first-serve model was used.

Below is the distribution for each program year and projections for 2005:

| Tax Year | Applications Received | Credits Issued | Employees Trained | Total |
|----------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 2000 | 6 | 5 | 1,926 | \$332,944.50 |
| 2001 | 440 | 323 | 111,652 | \$19,999,999.27 |
| 2004 | 723 | 301 | 113,514 | \$19,999,999.99 |
| 2005 | 901 | 366 | 99,877 | \$20,000,000 |
| Total: | 2,070 | 995 | 326,969 | \$60,332,944 |

Note: Funding for the program was not authorized from 2002-2003.

To learn more about the OTTC Program, please go to: <https://ottc.odjfs.state.oh.us/info/index.asp>

Workforce 411 Conference

“Building Ohio’s Integrated Workforce System”

The conference is designed to provide assistance to all local workforce investment areas and One-Stop partners, and is scheduled for February 15-16, 2006, tentatively at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus. The conference will focus on partner programs and approaches to service integration, along with highlighting the 19 local workforce areas.

Julie Andry from the One-Stop Section, Office of Workforce Development, is the project coordinator for the conference.

The conference will feature keynote speaker, Rochelle Daniels (an attorney and subject matter expert on federal employment training programs). Ms. Daniels will focus on service integration.

Other planned activities include One-Stop Partner Presentations from the 19 Workforce Areas and a panel

of experts composed of local, state, federal, and private sector individuals. Stay tuned for more details about the conference and mark your calendars for February 15-16, 2006.

One-Stop System Certification Phase II and SCOTI Focus Group Workshops

OWD is offering five workshops throughout the local areas. The workshops are designed to engage local discussion pertaining to the concepts and approaches for Phase II of the One-Stop System Certification and to obtain feedback and suggestions.

Feedback from the first two workshops that were held last month was very informative. Building relationships through information sharing and ideas to continuously improve processes and systems was a common theme that was gleaned from the comments. The remaining workshops will be held on the following dates:

December 8 Tiffin

December 15 Nelsonville

Third Frontier Internship Program



The Third Frontier Project is Governor Taft’s \$1.1 billion job creation program designed to expand Ohio’s high-tech capabilities and promote start-up companies that create high-paying jobs.

The Third Frontier Internship Program is part of an initiative to bring talented students and educators together with dynamic companies. The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) is administering this program with the goal of dramatically enhancing Ohio’s ability to retain highly skilled workers and foster innovative businesses.

The program will develop a pool of talented workers for Ohio businesses, create exciting student work experiences, enrich the educational experience and expose educators to the strategies and processes of today’s business environment. As Ohio transitions to a new knowledge economy, the program will help keep Ohio’s graduates at home, close to good jobs and excellent quality of life.

To learn more about the program, please go to: <http://www.ohio3fip.com/index.php>

Focus On Business

Labor Market Information... How can it help you? Labor Market Information (LMI) can help you recruit qualified workers, develop job descriptions, obtain Affirmative Action Data, learn about wages in your area and make sound economic decisions.

If you would like more information on how to use labor market information, training is available through the [Ohio Labor Market Information Training Institute](#).

Sixth Annual Youth Development Symposium

Staff attended the Sixth Annual Region V Youth Symposium in Chicago, IL November 14-17. Other attendees included youth and adults that represented ten states in the Midwest Region. Approximately 100 individuals, including youth from metro and rural areas of Ohio, attended the symposium.

The theme was "Youth Matters, Performance Counts". Presentations covered The President's High Growth Job Training Initiative, Workforce Investment Act Common Measures, Youth Offenders and Youth Leadership Development.

Federal News

Senate Schedules Vote To Quickly Move WIA To Conference (November 18, NASWA Article)

The Senate is scheduled to approve by unanimous consent its bill (S. 1021) to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Senator Enzi will offer a manager's amendment to replace the language approved by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee on May 18.

Senator Enzi's amendment does not include language advanced in National Governors Association (NGA) policy that would allow governors the flexibility to coordinate WIA program funding at the state level. The amendment would authorize 100 percent transferability of funds between the WIA Adult and WIA Dislocated Worker programs. The amendment includes language to restrict states ability to re-designate local workforce areas. [Senator Enzi's amendment](#) and a [summary of this bill](#) are available on the [Workforce ATM](#). NASWA will distribute updates to states on this bill's status as it becomes available.

Conferenced FY 2006 Labor Program Spending Bill Voted Down By House

The last time the House rejected a spending bill approved by conference committee was in 1995. All members of the House Minority party voted against the bill with enough in the House Majority party voting against it to place its future in temporary legislative limbo. Congressional members asked why they voted against the bill cited various reasons, but most centered on concerns over too little funding for favored programs and projects. Congressional leaders are now faced with identifying a new path to get the bill done.

Even though the House defeated the labor program spending bill, it is instructive to analyze program spending levels approved by the conference committee. This is because workforce program spending levels are not likely to change dramatically throughout future negotiations.

Of great concern the past couple of weeks was an amendment added by Senators Clinton and Schumer to reduce the UI state operations grant by \$125 million, allowing the same amount to be spent on unrelated programs.

Although this reduction was removed by the conference committee, the UI state operations budget is reduced by \$99 million from the Administration's requested level. This reduction may not be as large a concern as it appears because of updated economic assumptions released since the Administration's Budget was released last February showing a reduction in projected UI claims filed.

Additionally, the conference agreed to a reduction by 100,000 to the Average Weekly Insured Unemployed (AWIU) to provide a more rapid triggering of additional appropriations if claims loads jump. NASWA is continuing to analyze this proposed reduction.

Bush Administration Reinstates Prevailing Wage Pay For Post Katrina Projects (November 3, NASWA Article)

President Bush reinstated a requirement that federal prevailing wage rates be paid to workers involved on reconstruction projects for Hurricane Katrina recovery. Prevailing wage rates are required under the Davis-Bacon Act (P.L. 88-349), which requires that each contract over \$2,000 to which the United States or the District of Columbia is a party for the

construction, alteration, or repair of public buildings or public works shall contain a clause setting forth the minimum wages to be paid to various classes of laborers and mechanics employed under the contract.

Local News

Funding to 16 Community Colleges (Jobs for the Future (JFF) Article)

At "Creating Pathways for Success," the Fall 2005 conference of the National Council for Workforce Education, NCWE, JFF, and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation announced the selection of 16 community colleges to participate in *Breaking Through: Helping Low-Skilled Adults Enter And Succeed In College And Careers*.

Cuyahoga Community College in Local Area 3 was selected to participate in this initiative. This multi-year national initiative seeks to increase the number of low-skilled adults who enter and complete occupational and technical degree programs in community and technical colleges.

Breaking Through is managed by NCWE and JFF. The C.S. Mott Foundation made a \$751,000 grant to JFF this year in support of the initiative, which is designed to use community colleges as a vehicle to help low-income people advance in the labor market and to enhance their income. One goal is to provide a forum for peer learning and a source of innovative ideas for colleges interested in reaching out to and helping to advance adults whose skills fall well below college level.

Four conference sessions addressed that goal: (1) Making College Work for Low-Wage Workers; (2) Time Is the Enemy; (3) Pathways to Economic Opportunities for Second-Language Learners in Community Colleges; and (4) Creating Labor Market Connections for Adult Students. Please go to http://www.jff.org/jff/approaches/econopp/showcase/build_effective_pathways.html to read more about *Breaking Through* and the 16 participating community colleges.

Upcoming Events

BCS Bowl Bound Buckeyes

December 6 Governor's Ohio Workforce Policy Board Meeting; Columbus, Polaris Quest Training & Conference Center

December 14 Fourth Annual All-Ohio Youth Leadership Summit, Columbus Marriott North

"Have a safe and wonderful Holiday Season"

February 15-16 Workforce 411 Conference

CONTACT US at workforce@odjfs.state.oh.us if you have any questions or would like additional information.

