

Office of Workforce Development
William F. Demidovich Jr., Deputy Director
Quarterly Newsletter
(July-September 2005)



STATE NEWS

Taft Announces State Assistance For Hurricane Katrina Evacuees In Ohio

State launches website to link employers with evacuees seeking work

COLUMBUS (September 8, 2005) - Governor Bob Taft announced that disaster assistance is now available through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) for Hurricane Katrina evacuees who are now in or will be arriving in Ohio. Taft also announced that a special website through ODJFS is now available to connect Ohio employers with evacuees seeking temporary employment while in Ohio.

"Ohio stands ready to help those who were forced to leave their homes by this devastating storm, from helping them to obtain money to meet their immediate living needs, to connecting them with companies looking to hire workers," said Taft.

Under the state's newly created Hurricane Evacuee Assistance Program, families may qualify for \$1,500 in disaster assistance funding from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. In order to be eligible for the TANF assistance money, families must include a minor child, or pregnant woman, and be from a hurricane-affected area. Single individuals may be eligible for \$500 in state-funded assistance through ODJFS.

Evacuees can apply for this assistance at County Departments of Job and Family Services. A listing of addresses and telephone numbers may be found online (<http://jfs.ohio.gov/county/cntydir.stm>). County Department of Job and Family Services staff also will be on hand at reception centers to accept applications from evacuees should they arrive in Ohio via the resettlement program coordinated by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

The website (<http://www.scoti.ohio.gov/katrina>) was specifically designed to connect Hurricane Katrina

evacuees and employers with short-term employment opportunities. Job seekers without computer access can obtain these postings by calling the SCOTI Help Desk at 1-888-385-2588. The website allows evacuees to look for job opportunities across the state without requiring the formal registration normally needed to utilize the state's job-matching system, the Sharing Career Opportunities and Training Information (SCOTI) program.

"Ohioans are showing extraordinary compassion for Hurricane Katrina evacuees arriving in many communities across the state, and I encourage Ohio employers wishing to help evacuees to register temporary job opportunities with our centralized job matching website," Taft said.

The website was developed as part of Ohio's SCOTI job matching system, administered by ODJFS, in response to an outpouring of interest from employers wishing to help Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

**The Fate Of The American Dream:
A National Forum On Strengthening
Our Education And Skills Pipeline**
(Articles from Jobs for the Future (JFF))

The Fate Of The American Dream

In September 2005, top corporate, education, and workforce policymakers came together to address the failure to prepare the nation for the demands of the knowledge-based global economy of the 21st Century.

Through a dynamic, interactive forum, town hall-style gatherings, and addresses by prominent policymakers, 100 business and government leaders discussed how we can restore the "American Dream." Participants emerged with concrete strategies and resources to help provide more young people and adults with a better education and better careers.

The two-day event, called "The Fate Of The American Dream: A National Forum On Strengthening Our Education And Skills Pipeline," was hosted by Jobs for the Future and sponsored by a

number of corporations also committed to improving the education and skills pipeline: Ford Motor Company Fund, Citigroup Foundation, Johnson & Johnson, Aetna, BellSouth, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Fidelity Investments, Manpower, and The McGraw-Hill Companies, with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The forum concluded with JFF's release of Education And Skills For The 21st Century: An Agenda For Action. The agenda looks at how the nation can take advantage of today's best innovations and new models to rebuild and extend the education pipeline for tomorrow's needs.

Highlights of the Forum included:

Opening Address: William H. Donaldson, retiring SEC Chairman

Keynote Address: Patty Stonesifer, President of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Strengthening America's Education And Skills Pipeline In The 21st Century. This Fred Friendly Seminar, moderated by Charles Ogletree of Harvard Law School, explored the tensions and trade-offs confronting employers in need of skilled workers and the education and workforce systems that must meet those needs. The panel included Stanley S. Litow, Vice President, IBM Corporation; Calvin Butts, President of SUNY College at Old Westbury and Pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church; David Wessel, Wall Street Journal; Jeanne Shaheen, former Governor of New Hampshire and Director, Institute of Politics, Harvard; Jerry Jasinowski, President, Manufacturing Institute, National Association of Manufacturers; and others.

"Town Hall" Discussion With Corporate & Government Leaders: Facilitated by David Gergen, Harvard Public Service Professor of Leadership and Asst. Editor of US News & World Report. The panel included Rep. Howard P. Buck McKeon (R-CA), Chair, House Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness; Maria Tukeva, Assistant Superintendent, D.C. Public Schools, and Principal, of Bell Multicultural Senior High School; Darla Marburger, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Dept. of Education; Melanie Holmes, Senior Vice President, Manpower Inc.; and Guy Patton, President, Fidelity Outsourcing Services Inc.

To download forum materials, please go to:

<http://www.jff.org/jff/approaches/econopp/showcase/AmDreamForum.html>

State Supported Grant Funds Available To Businesses

From a strategic perspective, Hire Smart, Train Smart (HSTS) lays the foundation for job growth in Ohio not only through direct services to companies, but also by strengthening the value Ohio employers place on job profiling and skill assessment services in the global market.

Many Ohio companies may be unaware of the scope of high-end performance management solutions the EnterpriseOhio Network's SkillsMAX offers through HSTS. The Governor's Jobs Cabinet asked the EnterpriseOhio Network's SkillsMAX to initiate the Hire Smart, Train Smart project to facilitate Ohio companies' access to these services.

SkillsMAX provides employers with the solid information needed to make better hiring, placement and promotion decisions. With SkillsMAX assessments and related services, companies get results such as putting the right person in the right job, lower turnover and recruitment costs, more targeted training, and much more. For more details, please go to:

http://www.lorainccc.edu/LCCC/Institutional_Development/CCOS/HRD/SkillsMax/Skillsmax_Assesment.Normal.159.lccc

Team Of The Month

Bureau of Tax Credit Services

The Work Opportunity and Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit (WtWTC) Program staff demonstrated the vision to do more with less and implemented a more cost-effective automated process to make Ohio #1 nationally.

Over a five-year period (2000-2005), OWD management, in partnership with MIS, developed a three-phased approach that included automating manual program processes to significantly reduce turnaround time and generating employer notices and management reports.

Automation has helped to minimize the error rate, increase productivity, maximize the number of certifications and reduce staffing and operating costs.

Director Riley said, "The award represents ODJFS' principles and is an example of teamwork." She presented team awards to the following staff: Dwight Garner, Mary Franklin, Linda Johnson, Lois Miller,

Beth Ponader, Brian Green, Joanne Dunlap, Pamela Madacey, Jodina Murry and Sandra Ayers. (MIS Team members are Mike Bischoff, Kevin Reynolds, John Yount, and Steve Nussbaum).

The U.S. Department of Labor recently recognized Ohio as the #1 program in the nation for issuance of certifications. That's outstanding!

[Bureau of Labor Market Information](#)

Doug Holmes, Assistant Deputy Director of Unemployment Compensation, nominated LMI staff for Team of the Month. LMI staff partnered with UC and Greg Shaw from the Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) to provide long-term follow-up on RSC clients through the use of wage record data. ODJFS Bureaus of Unemployment Compensation Special Projects and LMI worked with RSC in a project to verify rehabilitation training successes using UC wage records that led to increased funding for RSC.

During the first year that RSC undertook matching of clients' wage records with their social security numbers, the documentation led to the reimbursement of \$334,000 in training costs from the Social Security Administration (SSA) related to former rehab customers with whom RSC had lost contact.

In the second year of this effort, RSC received \$530,000, with the possibility of an additional, second year training reimbursement check from SSA to RSC for \$105,000, for similarly closed cases about rehab consumers with whom RSC had lost contact.

These are essentially new Federal funds for RSC. In other words, the work status of former clients with whom RSC counselors had lost contact, but who subsequently were successful in finding a job, can now be documented through unemployment compensation wage records from employers (based on the client's social security number). This permits RSC to receive training cost reimbursements of about \$500,000 to \$1 million each year from the SSA.

The team efforts resulted in cost savings that included a more effective use of training funds and avoided duplication of effort.

Director Riley presented team awards to the following staff: Keith Ewald, Rudy Wilkinson, Mark Schaff, Rod McArtis, Rich Gordon (UC-retired), and Greg Shaw from RSC.

National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) 2005 Annual Conference

This summer's event was held at the Rushmore Plaza, Rapid City, South Dakota, from September 12-15, 2005.

NASWA is a national organization of state administrators of employment and training services, labor market information and unemployment insurance.

For nearly 70 years, the Association has provided a voice in Washington for state workforce agency administrators.

The opening conference plenary session focused on the impact of globalization on the nation's workforce and the publicly-funded workforce system. The closing plenary session addressed the impact of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's (BRAC) decisions, the effects on local economies, workers and businesses, and potential demand-driven responses.

NASWA Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting

In July, OWD veteran's staff attended the committee meeting held in San Francisco. Updates were provided about federal legislative initiatives, including WIA Plus, Community-Based Job Training Grants, Reemployment Services, BRAC and the Wage Record Interchange System. A lengthy discussion took place on WIA Common Measures and its impact on the veterans program.

John Savage, Chief, OWD Veterans Services Unit, briefed the committee on Ohio's Serving Warriors At Transition (SWAT), Specialized Transition Program (STP), and the Veterans Short-term Training Program (VSTP) initiatives.

In August, representatives from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) visited Ohio. Sigurd R. Nilsen, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security Issues, from GAO National Office, Washington, D.C., Meeta Engle, Senior Analyst, and Catherine Claiborne, Analyst, from the Seattle Field Office, were in Ohio to assess the implementation status of Public Law 107-288, Jobs For Veterans Act (JVA). Ohio was among five states that GAO chose to study. The others were Florida, Louisiana, California and Washington State. The GAO team did not discuss their findings; however, the general consensus was that the auditors left Ohio fully confident that the state is following both the letter

and the spirit of the law in implementing JVA. Their final report is due to Congress by December 31.

During the third quarter, the (SWAT) Team provided 18 briefings for approximately 1000 deploying and returning National Guard and Reserve soldiers in Ohio and Indiana. Also, staff briefed the Governor's Military Activation Task Force.

FEDERAL NEWS

Businesses Recognize The Importance Of Hiring Veterans

An article appearing in the August 11 edition of *USA Today* details how employers are increasingly looking to returning Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans to fill positions requiring leadership and technology skills.

Over 14,000 service members have been wounded in action in the war on terror in Iraq and Afghanistan. These individuals are highly trained and represent a potential large labor pool for businesses in need of qualified workers.

Bureau of Labor Statistics data published in August of 2003 show the most popular professions among disabled veterans are management and professional, followed by production, transportation and material moving.

LOCAL NEWS

Workforce Services Month

Governor Taft declared September as Workforce Services Month, stating "Ohio's Workforce Development System is successfully connecting workers and employers to meet the demands of a changing world economy."

During Workforce Services Month, several events and activities took place that showcased the local resources that are available to connect job seekers, employers and community partners.

Average Quarterly Employment Statistics

Employment covered under the Ohio Unemployment Compensation Law totaled 5.119 million in the first quarter of 2005; up 0.4 percent from one year ago.

Transportation and warehousing saw the largest increase in employment - up 6.2 percent since 2004. Utilities, Wholesale Trade, Professional and Technical Services, Management of Companies and Enterprises,

Administrative and Waste Services, Educational Services, Health Care and Social Assistance, Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation, and Accommodation and Food Services also increased from their employment levels of one year ago.

The first quarter 2005 payroll of \$46.539 billion was up 2.6 percent from the same period in 2004. Thirteen industrial sectors had a payroll increase from one year ago with payroll gains ranging from 13.3 percent in Utilities to 0.7 percent in Accommodation and Food Services. Payroll decreases ranged from 5.1 percent in Mining to 0.6 percent in Construction.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regional WIB Leadership Meetings

[Invitation Letter](#) 

Northwest (October 19, 2005)

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Findlay Country Club
1500 Country Club Drive
Findlay, OH 45840

Southwest (October 27, 2005)

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Hueston Woods Resort & Conference Center
5201 Lodge Road
College Corner, OH 45003

Central (November 2, 2005)

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Deer Creek Resort & Conference Center
22300 State Park Road #20
Mt. Sterling, OH 43143

November is Hire a Veteran Month

November 14-17, 2005

Chicago 6th Annual Youth Development Symposium
Hyatt Regency Chicago

December 7, 2005

Governor's Ohio Workforce Policy Board Meeting
Location TBD, 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

CONTACT US, Please contact us if you have questions or would like additional information.
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