

PA CareerLink Monroe County, Route 611/Merchants Plaza/PO Box 789, Tannersville, PA 18372
Ph: 570-620-2850 Email: dgerrity@state.pa.us www.monroecountycareerlink.org

BST Member Spotlight—Job Training

By John Casella, Director, Monroe County Job Training

Each edition of our Newsletter will feature information on a unique service that one of our BST partner agencies can provide to employers. In this edition, we feature **On-the-Job-Training (OJT)**, provided by our Title I partner, **Monroe County Job Training**.

On-the-Job-Training allows employers the opportunity to train employees for specific jobs and receive reimbursement (50% of the hourly wage) for the extraordinary time and effort it takes to provide training to inexperienced individuals.

Training hours are determined by the position itself and any experience or education the employee may already have. The maximum length of an OJT contract is six months.

Eligible individuals who have been through a professional assessment and have completed an employment plan will be referred to you to interview and accept as a full-time employee with a starting wage of \$9.00/hour or greater.

To learn more about this exciting program or other services provided to employers through Monroe County Job Training, simply call **PA CareerLink Monroe County** at 570-620-2850 and someone from our Business Services Team will assist you.

John Casella is the Director of Monroe County Job Training and the Administrator of the PA CareerLink Monroe County. John has been involved with Workforce Development for over 30 years. He is a certified Workforce Development professional (CWDP) through the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP).

Did you know...

Epecially for CareerLink Employers

Place your **CareerLink job posting in the Pocono Record** Classified Marketplace and receive up to 50% off the cost of your ad!!!
(For details on eligibility requirements and how to place an ad, please call 570-620-2850 and ask for a Business Services representative.)

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"OJT allows the employer to train the employee on the job and get reimbursed 50% of the hourly wage."

For local news and happenings, see page 4.

Pennsylvania's STEM Initiative

In our ongoing articles about Governor Rendell's **Workforce Initiatives**, this month we focus on the STEM Initiative. **STEM** stands for **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics**—the four core disciplines critical to the development of America's technological innovations today and in the future.



America's economic competitiveness in the future will depend upon our educational readiness today. In 2006, the National Governors Association (NGA) launched *Innovation America*, a nationwide strategy to prepare the nation for a future driven by innovation and global competition. A major cornerstone of *Innovation America* is the development of a national STEM strategy. The goal is to develop new programs and partnerships that allow states to engage in K-12 science, technology, engineering, and math education redesign efforts that support a state's economy innovation capacity.

The Commonwealth of PA was one of six states selected to receive a two-year \$500,000 award for the STEM Center Grant Program. The Team Pennsylvania Foundation, through a partnership between the PA Dept. of Labor & Industry, Education, Environmental Protection, and Community & Economic Development, made Pennsylvania's successful application possible through the generous commitment of \$500,000 in matching funds.

"The Commonwealth of PA was one of six states selected to receive a two-year \$500,000 award for the STEM Center Grant Program."

Regional networks have been established to collaborate and share programs that **will expand options for students to acquire STEM literacy** and other critical knowledge, skills, and credentials **to prepare them for high-demand, high-skill and high-wage careers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.**

Through targeted two- and ten-year goals, the **STEM initiative will motivate students** to pursue learning and careers in STEM pathways, **align educational standards with workforce expectations**, **expand the skilled STEM workforce in PA**, and develop strategies to **retain, recruit, and retrain Pennsylvania's workforce in STEM fields.**

If you'd like to find out more about the STEM grant/initiative and how it will ensure that the Commonwealth gains the necessary edge to compete globally, please visit www.psi.camp7.org.



"This grant will help ensure that the Commonwealth's students gain the necessary edge to compete and succeed in this global economy."

--PA Governor Edward G. Rendell

Unemployment Compensation News

Debit Cards Save Millions, Reduce Fraud, and Identity Theft...

To reduce costs, increase security and convenience, PA is now paying UC benefits to recipients via a debit card and direct deposit only. As of February 2008, all UC claimants were either enrolled in the debit card program or direct deposit. A secure PIN is issued when the debit card is issued, thus making it very secure as opposed to the paper check. An added benefit to employers, the new program will help keep unemployment taxes down.

UC Tax Help Available to Employers...

Field Accounting Service (FAS) offices are located across the Commonwealth to provide answers and information to employers, accountants, and claimants. FAS offices can discuss payment options for those having difficulty paying taxes, assist in completing forms, properly reporting wages and filing accurately. You can locate an office by searching in the blue pages or on the Dept. of Labor & Industry's website, www.dli.state.pa.us.

Reducing the Cost of Doing Business...

With the continued phase out of capital stock and foreign franchise tax, which is a tax on the value of a business, Governor Rendell's 2008-09 budget proposal includes a \$100 million business tax cut in 2009. In February, Governor Rendell also announced that businesses will see savings of \$250 million from a 10.22% overall decrease in workers' compensation costs. The "loss cost decrease" is an average; costs and saving vary by type of business, as well as claims history. Some employers will see savings; others may not. In addition, employers will see their 2008 UC taxes reduced an estimated \$141 million. For more information on Governor Rendell's budget proposal, visit www.pa.gov.

Sign up for Online Newsletter...

If you'd like to find out about all facets of state government, sign up for Governor Rendell's newsletter by visiting www.pa.gov.



e-TIDES (Electronic Tax Information and Data Exchange System) is an Internet filing system that allows electronic filing of returns, payments, and/or extension requests for tax services.

Business Retention & Expansion Program (BREP)

As always, our Business Services Team is available to meet with your company's officials with the goal of enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization.

The BREP program provides employers with a single point-of-contact to act as liaison between the employer and all economic development and training programs available to PA businesses.

The interview takes only 1 hour of the employer's time and is highly effective. To arrange a meeting, please call 570-620-2850.

Business Services Team Members:

Donna Gerrity, 570-620-2853, dgerrity@state.pa.us

Michelle Bisbing, 570-839-1992,
mbisbing@poconomtindustries.com

Ann Burke, 570-620-2850, anburke@state.pa.us

John Casella, 570-620- 2960, jacmcl@ptd.net

Jacqueline Fazio, 570-620-2850, jafazio@state.pa.us

Don Langlois, 570-620-2859, dlanglois@state.pa.us

Mike McGowan, 570-620-2855, micmcgowan@state.pa.us

Jerry McKane, 570-620-2856, jmckane@state.pa.us

Charles Montalbano, 570-620-2858,
cmontalban@state.pa.us

Ken Oakman, 570-620-2065, kaomcl@ptd.net

Chyrl Zickgraf, 570-620-2850, czickgraf@state.pa.us

News and Events...

Congratulations!

On May 8th, Governor Rendell recognized two local employers for excellence in education, training, and hiring practices that are helping position Pennsylvania as a global workforce leader.

Nominated by the Pocono Counties Workforce Investment Board, **Genco Supply Chain Solutions** of Tobyhanna and **Advanced Door Technologies** of East Stroudsburg both received awards for their contributions to Workforce Development.

The PA Department of Public Welfare presented the **Employer Honor Roll Award to Advanced Door Technologies (ADT)**. ADT manufactures rolling steel doors, fire doors and other specialty doors. ADT was recognized for hiring 8 EARN participants, providing them with good wages and medical benefits, and making continuous efforts to help EARN participants become self-sufficient.

PA Partners and the PA Dept. of Labor & Industry presented the **Governor's Workforce Development Award to Genco Supply Chain Solutions**. Genco is the 3rd-party managing Johnson & Johnson's new distribution center in Tobyhanna. Genco brought 300 new jobs to the Poconos, providing individuals with competitive starting wages and excellent benefits packages. Genco fosters training and cross-training for all positions and supports internal advancement.

The PA CareerLink of Monroe County and the Pocono Counties Workforce Investment Board congratulate both of these Monroe County employers!

Pocono Mountains Hospitality Scholarship Golf Tournament 2008

PA CareerLink Monroe County and the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau are hosting a Golf Tournament at Skytop Lodge on June 30.

Interested in Sponsorship Packages or golfing in the tournament?
Contact John Casella at 570-620-2960.

CAREER Quest

Once again, we are please to announce that this year's CAREER Quest was a great success.

At this year's event, 80 vendors were on hand to discuss employment and training opportunities for approximately 1100 attendees.

THANK YOU to all who participated in CAREER Quest and to all our staff members who helped with the planning and organization of the event! WELL DONE!

We hope to see everyone again next year!

Pennsylvania
CareerLink
MONROE COUNTY



**PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT AND
VISIT OUR LOCAL WEBISTE...**

On our local website, you can find information on Employer Services, Job Seeker Services, Partners, Seminars and Special Events, and much more!

We hope you check it out at:

www.monroecountycareerlink.org

Our Mission Statement

**The primary source of excellence
in workforce development
in the Pocono communities.**