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BST Member—Veterans Employment & Training

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NOTE: Federal contractors and subcontractors are required to post their job openings with the nearest CareerLink/State Job Service.

By law, PA CareerLinks give priority to qualified veterans through administration of the Veterans Program.

The Veterans Program provides a full range of employment services to assist veterans in their search for work. **Specially trained veteran employment representatives located in PA CareerLink offices provide veterans with a full range of employment services**, including referral services, job development, referral to training, and referral to government and community veteran service agencies. **These representatives help veterans match their job skills to employer job openings and contact employers on behalf of the veteran for consideration in hiring.**

The **program places special emphasis on helping disabled veterans** secure employment opportunities. Special attention is also given to those veterans who are leaving the military. The **Transition Assistance Programs (TAP)** consists of workshops where attendees learn to conduct job searches and prepare resumes and cover letters. Current labor market information is provided, as well as an evaluation of employability relative to the job market. Veterans' benefits are also covered.

Comprehensive outreach and assistance is provided to veterans and their families through five **Governor's Veterans Outreach and Assistance Centers**. The Centers serve as a link between the veteran requiring information or assistance and the public or private organization which can best meet the veteran's needs.

If you would like more information on hiring Veterans for your job openings, please contact our **Veterans Employment Representative, Charles Montalbano**, at 570-620-2850, ext. 3316. Charles **assists Veterans and Employers in Monroe and Carbon counties.**

We also have a **Disabled Veterans Employment Representative, Jack Bishop**, who **assists Veterans and Employers in Pike and Wayne counties.** You may contact Jack at 570-253-1163.

Employers may also visit the following websites for more information on hiring Veterans:

www.HireVetsFirst.gov

www.usajobs.opm.gov

www.dol.gov/vets



For local news and happenings, see page 4.

Wall Street West Awards \$1.6 Million in Workforce Development Projects

The past, present and future of Wall Street West came together for the initiatives fourth regional meeting at the TEK Park Campus on November 12, 2008. The event was highlighted by the announcement of **10 new workforce development projects totaling more than \$1.6 million.**

The 10 new projects represent the entire ten-county region, which includes Berks, Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill and Wayne Counties. As with all workforce development projects funded by Wall Street West, they will receive funding through the federal Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant program, administered through the U.S. Department of Labor. The projects announced will join the 39 other projects receiving more than \$8.5 million funding since October 2007.

Six of the new investments are considered Gap Investment projects. These projects focus on **creating programs that will strengthen the core workforce capacity that will make the region a pre-eminent locale for business attraction.**

"Wall Street West is strategically improving Northeastern Pennsylvania by building on its strengths to bolster the region," said Vito Gallo, Co-Chair, Wall Street West Human Capital Committee. "By developing key programs that address gaps in the workforce, the region's stakeholders have demonstrated a commitment to long-term change that will **put Northeastern Pennsylvania in a stronger position for sustainable business growth.**"

Additionally, four organizations will be receiving nearly \$600,000 in funding for **Innovation Investment projects.** Innovation Investments focus on the future of the region and develop mechanisms to enhance relationship building, education, training, and economic development in industries like financial services and information technology.

"**Innovation Investments represent opportunities to identify the jobs that will be the future of the Northeastern Pennsylvania economy,**" said Chris Haran, Co-Chair, Wall Street West Human Capital Committee. "The funding we are awarding today can shape the change that will allow the future workforce to work in a wider range of careers."

Wall Street West is a not-for-profit partnership in Northeastern Pennsylvania that is enhancing the financial services, information technology and related industries in the commonwealth through strategic workforce development and state-of-the-art economic development. The goal of Wall Street West is to work with firms in New York City and the surrounding metropolitan threat zones to establish supplemental facilities to safeguard data, fund the education and training of a growing workforce, and expand the competitiveness and potential of these industries.

If you'd like more information about Wall Street West or for a complete list of awardees and grant amounts, visit www.wallstreetwest.org.



"Innovation Investments represent opportunities to identify the jobs that will be the future of the Northeastern Pennsylvania economy"



Under-Employed and Under the Radar

By Jessica Dickler, CNNMoney.com staff writer

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) -- The economic crisis has taken a severe toll on the nation's workforce. But while much of the discussion centers around layoffs and unemployment, **a growing number of Americans are becoming under-employed - struggling to pay their bills on a smaller salary, or completely giving up on finding any work.**

Unemployment claims have climbed to 7-year highs, but the number of people who have settled for part-time work or given up on finding a job altogether is the worst it's been in over 14 years, **but isn't included in the official unemployment rate.**

Because of the slowing economy and credit crunch, companies are not only laying off workers, but also scaling back hours and shifting some full-time employees to part-time shifts. That can make it extremely difficult for those workers already having trouble making ends meet in the face of higher gas prices and mounting expenses.

"Even workers who hold onto their jobs during a downturn can suffer on this dimension," according to Heidi Shierholz an economist at the Economic Policy Institute, a research group based in Washington. "Those additional 10 hours of work can be the difference for a family being able to make their rent, fill their gas tank, heat their homes."

The under-employment rate, which counts those without jobs who have become discouraged and stopped looking for work, as well as part-time workers who want full-time jobs, rose to 11% from 10.7%, the highest rate since April 1994, according to the Labor Department's monthly jobs report.

The report also breaks down the specific number of people working part-time jobs because they couldn't find full-time work or their hours had been cut back due to slack conditions, which jumped by 337,000 people to 6.1 million. That's the first time there have been more than 6 million part-time workers wanting full-time jobs since 1993.

That reading is up more than a third from a year ago, the biggest 12-month jump since the period right after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Other than that short 2001 spike in the reading, there hasn't been a jump like this since the deep recession of 1982.

Those numbers really hit home for people like Sherida Jones, 48, who lost her job as a senior mortgage loan processor and underwriter in February 2007. Since then she's been unable to land a comparable job in the mortgage industry. After her unemployment benefits ran out, Jones began waiting tables at a Mexican restaurant in her town of Lewisville, Texas. Her part-time position pays \$250-\$350 a week - a far cry from the \$72,000 a year she made as a loan processor, but Jones says she is quick to pick up extra shifts when she can to help make ends meet. She has never stopped looking for a full-time job.

"At this point I will take anything," Jones said.

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Are you an employer with a job opening? Contact our office and we will gladly post your job for you on the Commonwealth Workforce Development System (www.cwds.state.pa.us).

Our Workforce Development Professionals are happy to register your business and post your job openings.

"PA CareerLink Monroe County—Making Connections Happen"

News and Events...

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BIO-TECHNOLOGY

Life sciences, technology, manufacturing-it's all a part of biotechnology, another **High Demand Occupation Industry Cluster** in our workforce investment area. To succeed and grow in the 21st century economy, biotechnology employers need to fill each position in their companies, from entry-level to the most advanced with qualified, skilled individuals. Because the industry is experiencing such a rapid growth, biotechnology firms often demand more skilled workers than are available and are projected to need more workers than are currently enrolled in training programs.

Northampton Community College offers specialized diploma programs in this area and has recently presented PETRI (Pipeline for Education, Training, Resources and Innovation) Project Information Sessions to educate both potential students and employers of the opportunities in this field.

For more information contact **Cindy Adams**, PETRI Project Director at 610-332-6095

SMALL BUSINESSES...Go GREEN!

Small businesses can receive **CASH REBATES** for Energy Efficient Lighting Retrofit.

Replacing existing inefficient lighting with Energy Star qualified lighting products will reduce your electric bill AND you may receive a rebate check!

The Sustainable Energy Fund and PPL Electric Utilities sponsor the project.

To find out more about this program and to download an application, visit www.thesef.org/programs.

New Energy-Efficiency Program.
Lighting retrofits for Small Business.



LEARN MORE AT
energystar.gov

CENTER FOR
WORKFORCE INFORMATION



CWIA *Newsline*...

Each month, the Center for Workforce Information and Analysis (CWIA) provides the leadership of the PA Dept. of Labor & Industry with an excellent briefing on PA's **Economic Situation**. CWIA analysts provide brief summaries of the current employment situation in PA, jobs and industry data and economic indicators, where the economy is headed, and more. A copy of this month's presentation can be found at: www.paworkstats.state.pa.us/newsrel/PA_news_rel.pdf