



# HOLIDAY GREETINGS



**John Casella**  
CareerLink  
Administrator

## *From the desk of John Casella:*

Let's all rejoice and thank the Lord that this past year will soon be behind us with great expectations that 2011 will be kinder and gentler to our economy. 2010 had to be the most difficult year that I've ever experienced over my past 33 years in the field of Workforce Development. The lengthy recession that we are living and working through has had a dramatic impact on not only Monroe County but on the entire nation. Locally we struggled through this past year with an unemployment rate that hovered around 10%. This figure translates to approximately 8,500 individuals who are out of work and seeking employment opportunities to support their families. This economic slowdown also greatly impacted our local and regional employers who were forced to tighten their purse strings when it came to expanding their workforce or maintaining their existing employees. We did unfortunately see that some of our businesses did not survive the recession and we at the CareerLink are working hard to assist those individuals that were affected, due to plant closings, find suitable employment opportunities.

In an effort to live up to our mission as "The Primary Source of Excellence in Workforce Development in the Pocono Community" our staff has increased their efforts and workload to meet the ever increasing needs of our employer, job seeking and student customers.

I am once again incredibly proud of all of our CareerLink staff for consistently exceeding the expectations of our customers and continuing to provide hope and encouragement to our customers who need our services now more than ever.

I wish you all a safe and happy Holiday Season.

Here are a few of our CareerLinks accomplishments over the past year:

- [www.monroecountycareerlink.org](http://www.monroecountycareerlink.org) – Our local website received over 350,000 in 2010
- We averaged between 1,600 and 2,000 customers per month utilizing our facility in Tannersville

## What's going on This Week.....

### "Resumes & Cover Letters"

Presented by Kim J.

Monday, December 20th 9:00-11:00 am

### "Intro to CareerLink Services"

Presented by Kim J.

Tuesday, December 21st, 10:30-11:30 am

### "Interview Basics & Salary Negotiations"

Presented by Kim J.

Tuesday, December 21st 1:00 –3:00 pm

### "Career Exploration"

Presented by Kim J.

Wednesday, December 22nd , 9:00-2:30 pm

### "How to Land a Government Job"

By Appointment with Kim J.

Monday, December 27th, 9:00-10:30 am

[www.pacareerlinkstate.pa.us](http://www.pacareerlinkstate.pa.us)  
[www.monroecountycareerlink.org](http://www.monroecountycareerlink.org)

- Over the past year our Administrative Team has served over 12,500 phone calls.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual successful golf tournament partnering with the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau - \$6,000 in Scholarships were awarded as a result
- Employer Job Fairs held on site in 2010:

PA State Police	One-Source	C & S Grocers
Minit Mart	Performance Group	UPS
Tobyhanna Army Depot	Iridium Industries	



- Career Guidance Team assisted over 400 individuals attend skill training programs
  - Over 100 economically disadvantaged youth were employed over the summer months
  - We successfully held our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual CAREER Quest for our community with over 1,300 job seekers attending
  - Our Business Service Team continues to assist those Trade affected employees seeking employment. There were 73 new clients served in 2010, with 40 contracts for training written.
  - We've enhanced our PREP program to better serve our customers receiving unemployment compensation
  - We continue to provide interview outfits through our in-house Clothing Closet
  - We partnered with the following agencies to better serve our customers:
- |                                       |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| United Way of Monroe County           | MCTI                                |
| Northampton Community College         | Pathstone                           |
| East Stroudsburg University           | Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau    |
| Monroe County Redevelopment Authority | Burnley Workshop                    |
| Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance    | Pocono Alliance                     |
| Monroe County Transit Authority       | Monroe County Assistance Office     |
| County Commissioners                  | PA State Representatives & Senators |
| Youth Employment Service              |                                     |

- We bid best wishes to the individuals who left our employ this past year:

<b>Donna Gerrity</b>	<b>Rosemary Kennedy</b>
<b>Jay Shumaker</b>	<b>Juan Mendez</b>



- And welcome our new staff:

<b>Ali Jabara</b>	<b>Dolores Casalapro</b>	<b>Rebecca Campbell</b>
<b>Margaret Mary Hartnett</b>	<b>John Blaxland</b>	

- We provided the following seminars and workshops, free of charge, to our customers through our Customer Information and Resource Team:

Resumes & Cover Letters	Intro To CareerLink Services
Interview Basics & Salary Negotiations	Career Exploration
Computer Basics	Employer Website Assistance
Website Enrollment	Building Confidence in Your Job Search
Resume Critique	How to Network for Jobs
Interview Critique	Mock Interviews with Interview Stream
How to Land a Government Job	Healthcare Employer Symposium
Hot Jobs in Healthcare!	Computerized O'Net Assessments
Help B 4 U 4 Close	How to Work a Job Fair
Student Financial Aid for Higher Education	Small Business Financing with MetroAction
CPOL Tobyhanna Army Depot Informational Seminar	
Financial Wellness Program – How to Survive the Current Financial Hurricane	



These are only a few of the many highlights and successes we have had the opportunity to provide to our employ and job seeker customers, and to our community at large.

Again, thank you to all staff and partners for their dedication to customer satisfaction and quality service.

I wish everyone a Happy Holiday and a safe and prosperous New Year!

**John Casella**



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# UC EXTENDED

Last Friday President Obama signed into law an extension of emergency unemployment compensation and extended benefits through December 2011. The law does not provide for additional benefits beyond the currently allowed 99 weeks. Because the law is retroactive, eligible claimants may receive benefits from the time the previous law expired on Nov. 27, 2010.

“This is great news for the 140,000 Pennsylvanians who would have been without unemployment compensation payments in December had Congress and the president not acted to restore this badly needed financial lifeline,” said Labor & Industry Secretary Sandi Vito. “We are expediting claim processing to quickly get this money to individuals who are out of work through no fault of their own and need help to pay for food, shelter, utilities and other necessities while they seek to rejoin the workforce.” “All eligible individuals will be contacted by mail and claimants will receive payment as quickly as possible,” Vito said. Claims will be processed immediately for those who continued to file EUC bi-weekly claims for weeks after Nov. 27, 2010, and extended benefits claims for weeks after Dec. 4, 2010.

Eligible individuals who did not file EUC claims after Nov. 27, 2010, are encouraged to do so beginning on Monday, Dec. 20, online at [www.uc.pa.gov](http://www.uc.pa.gov) or through the PA Teleclaims, or PAT, system at 1-888-255-4728.

Claimants who stopped filing paper claims for state extended benefits after Dec. 4 should call the UC service center for instructions on how to resume filing. Established in 2008, the EUC program provides up to 53 weeks of additional unemployment benefits for individuals who have exhausted the maximum 26 weeks of state benefits. The resumption of federal funding also enables Pennsylvanians to again qualify for up to 20 weeks of state extended benefits. The last payable week of EUC is the week ending June 9, 2012.



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## TAX BILL WON'T HELP 99er's

The tax-cut bill President Barack Obama signed Friday renews benefits for millions of unemployed people. But it does nothing for hundreds of thousands who have been out of work so long they've used up all benefits available to them.

In the 25 states with unemployment of at least 8.5 percent, people can receive up to 99 weeks in aid. In other states, the unemployed get less than 99 weeks — in some cases just 60 weeks, according to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities.

The bill keeps 99 weeks as the maximum anyone can receive. It doesn't provide any more weeks of benefits to people who have reached the limit in their state. Those who have exhausted all benefits are sometimes known as "99ers," even though the duration of their benefits varies by state.

The legislation renews federal programs that extend benefits beyond the 26 weeks states always provide. Those federal programs expired Nov.30. The Labor Department says it doesn't know how many Americans have used up all their unemployment benefits. But the number reaches well into the hundreds of thousands. In California, 5,000 unemployed people use up their extended benefits each week. And 274,185 Californians will have exhausted 99 weeks of benefits by year's end.

In Florida, 105,011 people have run out of benefits; in Nevada, 27,325. In New York, 125,284 out-of-work people have stopped receiving unemployment checks because they've exhausted their 99 weeks of aid.

New York's 99ers tend to be older than those still receiving unemployment: Thirty percent percent of the state's 99ers are 55 or older, compared with less than 22 percent of those still receiving benefits. And more than 48 percent of New York 99ers are women. That compares with 43 percent of those receiving unemployment aid.

Many more people could be joining the 99ers. Job losses peaked in January 2009. Those who lost jobs then, at the depths of the recession, will soon lose their benefits if they haven't found work or run out of aid already. The number of people who applied for benefits for the first time peaked at 651,000 in the week that ended March 28, 2009 — 94 weeks ago.



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## December 21 is a Solstice Day in 2010

Today marks the first day of winter. The December solstice will occur at 23:38 (or 11.38pm) Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) on December 21, 2010. It is also known as the winter solstice in the northern hemisphere and the summer solstice in the southern hemisphere due to the seasonal differences. Its date varies from December 20 to December 23 depending on the year in the Gregorian calendar.

The December solstice occurs when the sun reaches its most southerly declination of -23.5 degrees. In other words, it is when the North Pole is tilted 23.5 degrees away from the sun. Depending on the Gregorian calendar, the December solstice occurs annually on a day between December 20 and December 23. On this date, all places above a latitude of 66.5 degrees north are now in darkness, while locations below a latitude of 66.5 degrees south receive 24 hours of daylight.

The sun is directly overhead on the Tropic of Capricorn in the southern hemisphere during the December solstice. It also marks the longest day of the year in terms of daylight hours for those living south of the Tropic of Capricorn. Those living or travelling south from the Antarctic Circle towards the South Pole will see the midnight sun during this time of the year.

On the contrary, for an observer in the northern hemisphere, the December solstice marks the day of the year with the least hours of daylight for those living north of the Tropic of Cancer. Those living or traveling north of the Arctic Circle towards the North Pole will not be able to see the sun during this time of the year.



# CELEBRATING THE SEASON CAREERLINK STYLE!



On Friday, December 10th Staff, Partners and Friends gathered at Neville's Bloomin' Onion in Mountainhome Pennsylvania. We had the run of the place to whoop and holler and just have an all out jolly good time. Hor'deuvres, Buffet Dinner and Seasonal Libations provided the backdrop for letting loose on the dance floor. DJ Mark Sokolowski kept the night rockin' and rollin', and to him we extend our gratitude.





# JOB ORDERS Spotlight



## First Keystone Community Bank

—Trust & Retail Investment Manager  
-web 744867

## County of Monroe

—D & A Counselor at MCCF  
-web 743051

## Lowes Home Center

—Sales Specialist Appliances  
-web 744152  
—Delivery Truck Driver  
-web 744101



## Quality Health Care Inc.

—Home Health Aides  
-web 742956  
—Nurse Aide  
-web 742973

## US Paper & Chemical Supply

—Office Cleaner  
-web 743448

## Citizens Bank

—Teller  
-web 744574



*To All Staff, Partners and Friends....*

*Have a Very Safe and*

*Happy Holiday Season*

*See You Back Here in 2011*

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**Our Mission**  
**“The Primary Source of**  
**Excellence in**  
**Workforce Development in the**  
**Pocono Communities”**

Any submission, request or question to be included in the FYI can be submitted to Deborah Harrison, at:

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