

GETTING BACK TO WORK

Last week Governor Edward G. Rendell quick action is needed to help Pennsylvania withstand the economic punches from the struggling national economy. The state's February unemployment rate¹ rose to 7.5 percent, while the nonfarm job count² dropped by 41,000 jobs.

"We cannot afford to wait for someone else to draw up a roadmap," Governor Rendell said. "Now is the time to get in the driver's seat, restart our economy and get it moving ourselves."

"The fact that Pennsylvania continues to fare better than the nation -- the state's unemployment rate has been at or below the nation for 73 of the past 74 months -- is overshadowed by the fact that we have lost more jobs in a month than at any time since 1996. Immediate action needs to be taken to provide our citizens with the opportunities they want and need to get back into the workforce."

The Governor called for urgent action by the General Assembly on his agenda for economic relief and recovery included in his 2009-10 state budget proposal. The proposal includes \$537 million for job-creating infrastructure investments and \$380 million for communities and state-owned universities to take on job-creating construction projects and attract new businesses among other investments to expand health care coverage and provide tuition relief and assistance.

"My budget proposal, and the \$16 billion in federal recovery funding, will help put more Pennsylvanians to work, rebuild the state's infrastructure, make businesses more competitive and ultimately position the state's economy to emerge from these difficult times even stronger than before," Governor Rendell said.

The Governor's relief and recovery agenda focuses on jobs, health care and tuition relief. The Rendell administration has also taken a series of actions to help those who lost their jobs and are having difficulty navigating these challenging times, some of which include:

- Inviting 16,000 uninsured people to join adultBasic -- the state's health care program for uninsured adults;
- Releasing \$5 million in Career Opportunity Grants to help

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

"Resumes & Cover Letters"

Presented by Kim J.

Mon, March 23, 9-10:30 am

"How to Work a Job Fair!"

Presented by Kim J.

Mon, March 23, 10:45-11:30 am

"Intro to CareerLink Services"

Presented by Kim J.

Tue, March 24, 10:00-11:00 am

"Interview Basics"

Presented by Kim J.

Tue, March 24, 1-2:00 pm

"Career Exploration"

Presented by Kim J.

Wed, March 25 9-2:30 pm

"Computer Basics"

Presented by Ken O.

Fri, March 27, 9-10:00 am

retrain 1,000 unemployed Pennsylvanians for jobs in the emerging green collar sector;

- Committing \$6.6 million to extend home heating assistance until April 3, to benefit approximately 19,000 families;
- Expanding operations of PA CareerLink — the state’s one-stop for job services and retraining programs - across the state in the coming months; and
- **Holding “Here to Help” events in every county over the next two months to provide in-person access to vital state and local services.**

Governor Rendell also pointed to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as another way the state can get moving on projects that will create jobs and boost the economy.

Earlier this week he signed documents certifying that more than \$1 billion in federal recovery funds will be used for transportation projects that, when combined with the \$1.8 billion in transportation projects already on the books for this year, will be the state’s largest-ever infrastructure investment.

“It is not every day that I get to sign letters that will put some 10,000 workers who were recently laid off back to work,” Governor Rendell said. “I am proud that Pennsylvania is ahead of the curve and ready to make President Obama’s stimulus program a reality in our communities – and this is just the beginning.”

The Governor noted that in transportation, every \$1 billion of new spending creates approximately 30,000 direct and indirect jobs.

“In roughly 90 days, thousands of Pennsylvania workers will be packing a lunch again and reporting to work to repair bridges, roads and tunnels in every corner of our state.”

HERE TO HELP In Monroe

Due to the unprecedented volume of layoffs occurring in our region, local workforce development agencies are making extensive efforts to serve the needs of these dislocated workers. One such initiative is a collaborative effort between Luzerne/Schuylkill, Lackawanna, and **Pocono Counties Workforce Investment Boards** in conjunction with the **PA CareerLink** system to provide a community wide response event. The event is called **HELP IS HERE! (Surviving a Layoff)**.

The purpose of these sessions is to provide dislocated workers with access to a multitude of social service agencies under one roof. This program is similar to the Rapid Response program that reacts to massive layoffs in one company. In such events, the Rapid Response program that reacts to massive layoffs in one company. In such events, the Rapid Response Team, which is comprised of state and social service employees meet with the dislocated workers at the employer’s site to assist them in transitioning.

This is not a job fair. It is instead a transition fair where the unemployed can meet in person with representatives of agencies that can provide services and assistance to help them adjust to their new circumstances, (e.g. crisis budgeting, foreclosure avoidance, counseling services, health insurance, advice on utility obligations, and adult education options, etc.).

The extensive job seeker services provided by the **PA CareerLinks** will be explained and demonstrated, these include electronic registration, job skills training and job development.

The session for the **Pocono Counties will be Monday March 30, 2009, 10 am to 3 pm at Northampton Community College (Monroe Campus in Tannersville)**. The Participating Agencies set for the event in Monroe County are: **PA CareerLink Monroe County**, Unemployment Compensation, Veterans Employment Representative, PA Dept. of Insurance, Pocono Healthy Communities Alliance, Employee Benefits Security Admin., Consumer Credit Counseling, Blue Cross of NEPA, PA Department of Health, Monroe County Assistance Office, Maternal & Family Health Services, Monroe County Weatherization Program, United Way of Monroe County, PPL Utilities, WIC Nutrition Center, Child Care Information Services, Northampton Community College, PrimeTech Training, Career Development & Training, Ltd and Monroe Career & Technical Institute.



TEAMOLOGY

TEAM: A number of persons associated together in work or activity to perform a common goal.

CareerLink

Administration TEAM

CAREER Quest is Coming.....Tuesday, April 14, 2009 is the 7th annual CAREER Quest. It's been a bit of a challenge this year to get a significant number of employers registered for this event. To date there are 48 vendors, and space available for 11 more. Our team is continuing to fax and email each and every new prospect in the hopes of filling all the booths **by the 14th**. Spread the word, and let any employers you are working with know that there are still plenty of openings for Monroe County's largest job Fair!



Business Services TEAM

The US Census Bureau will be winding up the spring recruitment season at the PA CareerLink in April. They are scheduled to recruit and test on Fridays, April 3rd, April 17th, and April 24th. The following positions are available in this area-Recruiting Assistant, Crew Leader, Assistant Crew Leader and Enumerator. Anyone interested, those who want more information on their status, must call 1-866-861-2010.



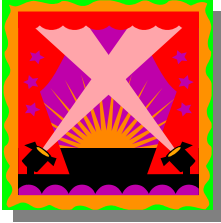
Customer Information & Resource TEAM

It's hard to believe another year has flown by, and once again it's time for CAREER Quest preparation!! For the next three weeks the seminar schedule is solely geared toward preparing our participants for the big day. The informative workshop "How to Work a Job Fair" will be offered six times to give as many interested folks the opportunity to participate as necessary. To shore up that experience, we've added "Building Confidence for Your Job Search!", "Interview Basics and Salary Negotiation", four sessions of "Resume Critiques" (by appointment only) and "Mock Interviews". The early weeks of March saw three (very full) sessions of "Resumes and Cover Letters". Another new seminar introduced during this very busy phase-"Budget Basics, will debut on Monday, March 30th. All of the workshops are presented by Kimberly Jones.



Also coming in April.....special seminar "Job Changes and Your Retirement Assets", Thursday, April 2, 2009, 10 am-11 am at the PA CareerLink Monroe County. Presented by Linda J. Worthington of Worthington Wealth Management. Sign up in the Career Resource Room or call 570-620-2850.





JOB ORDERS Spotlight



Pleasant Valley Manor

—Environmental Services Director
-web 626183

Pocono Family YMCA

—Assistant Supervisor-Latchkey
-web 622187
—Bus Driver I Summer
-web 622822

Right Reason Technologies

—Content Developer
-web 624292



Solomon Dental Corp

—Dental Assistant
-web 625619

Cherry Valley Bistro

—Waiter/Waitress
-web 625446
—Busboy
-web 625448



Hair Asylum Inc

—Cosmetologist
-web 622981

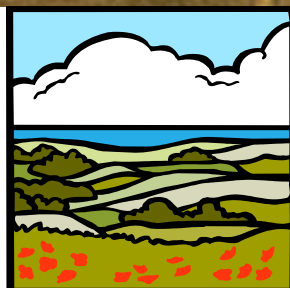
WRITING ON THE WALL

**Look at a day when you are
supremely satisfied at the end.
It's not a day when you lounge
around doing nothing;
its when you had everything to do,
and you've done it.**

-Margaret Thatcher

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