

# Youth Conference

The surge in Summer Youth Employment ARRA funds and Pennsylvania's focus on preparing youth for workplace success was key to this year's PA Youth Services Academy, which was attended by **Linda Whidden**, CareerLink Career Guidance Team Leader. The PA Partners conference, themed "Building for Recovery: Empowering Pennsylvania Youth," was held Dec. 1 through Dec. 2 in Grantville. The conference provided a forum to share best practices, develop solutions to workforce and education challenges and discuss the future of youth employment programs and services in Pennsylvania. Attendees included several Pennsylvania youth participants, along with representatives from Pennsylvania's Regional Career Education Partnerships, or RCEPs, local workforce investment boards, youth services providers and other practitioners involved in youth workforce development across the state.

Pennsylvania already has several successful workforce development initiatives focused on youth. RCEPs recently received the "State Excellence Award for Leadership" from the National Association of State Workforce Agencies for being an outstanding workforce-related program. Pennsylvania's RCEPs connect businesses, education, and communities to prepare Pennsylvania's future workforce. The 22 partnerships across the state provide more than 323,000 students better opportunities to gain the knowledge, skills and work-based learning critical for success in college and careers.

Pennsylvania's Summer Youth Employment Program was a major focus of the conference. Feedback from this past summer, as well as recommendations for future programming, will be gathered during the conference for inclusion in a tool kit to be provided to participants at a later date.

Also attending were Department of Labor & Industry Secretary Sandi Vito and Department of Education Secretary Gerald L. Zahorchak. They discussed how to better prepare youth for success in the workplace by improving the state's

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

### "Career Exploration"

Presented by Kim J.

Monday, December 7th 9:00-2:30 pm

### "Intro to CareerLink Services"

Presented by Kim J.

Tue, December 8th, 10:00-11:00 am

### "Mock Interviews"

Presented by Kim J.

Tue, December 8th, 1:00-2:00 pm

### "Resumes & Cover Letters"

Presented by Kim J.

Wed, December 9th 9-11:30 am

### "Computer Basics"

Presented by Ken O.

Fri., December 11th, 9-10:00 am



youth career development programs and services.

"To help Pennsylvania's workforce recover from the national recession we must be dually focused on immediate solutions to get Pennsylvanians back to work, and on making that recovery sustainable by properly preparing our youth for the careers and economy of the future," Vito said during a panel discussion at the Pennsylvania Youth Services Academy conference.

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## ELECTRIFYING TRAINING

The state has applied for a \$5 million U.S. Department of Energy American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant to provide training and placement services for approximately 1,215 Pennsylvanians seeking careers in the electricity industry.

"Modernizing our electrical grid and related technology is important to the economy, the environment and even our national security," Governor Rendell said. "By developing the training and employment opportunities workers need to be successful in the electric power sector, we will connect employers with job seekers, improve our ability to deliver clean energy to urban centers and protect our valuable infrastructure from degradation or attack."

If awarded, the Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board, or PA WIB, will use the grant to enhance statewide training and placement efforts for Pennsylvanians in the electric power workforce. The Pennsylvania Center for Green Careers, an arm of the PA WIB, will develop a pipeline of workers who are needed to implement the national clean-energy smart grid. The project will serve the current workforce by providing advanced training as needed and prepare others to join the electric power sector workforce.

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## TAD RAPID RESPONSE



PA CareerLink staff **Donna Gerrity** and **Charles Montalbano** will join the regional Rapid Response Coordination Services Team on Friday, December 11th to provide CareerLink information and services to 161 contract workers set to be laid off from the Tobyhanna Army Depot at the end of the week. The reductions are primarily for electronics and industrial trade workers assigned to communications-electronics maintenance and manufacturing work performed at Tobyhanna.

The depot employs 1,100 contract workers among its staff of 5,900. The Department of the Army civilians are not affected by this workload reduction, the depot said, according to a written release.

The contractor personnel did work on all of the depot's projects, including communications, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, command and control, and computer systems, as well as fabrication and integration projects.

The affected contractors are Defense Support Services LLC and Northrop Grumman Space and Mission Systems Corp.

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*Happy December Birthday to:*



*Mary ElKasas*

*Janice Smith-Hughes*

*Ken Oakman*





# TEAMOLOGY

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



## Business Services TEAM



The U.S. Census Bureau will be at the CareerLink on Monday, Dec 14th and Monday Dec 21st giving employment tests to pre-registered applicants for the Census Enumerator positions open throughout Monroe county. Interested applicants must call 1-866-861-2010, give their zip code, and will be registered to take the test on one of the test dates. The Enumerator position pays \$10.00 / hr. and will start late March or April and last through the end of the Census. Job order # 664172 applies.

## Customer Information & Resource TEAM



With the overall increase of individuals coming into the CareerLink, attendance at workshops and seminars has also shot through the roof. In this past year alone, March '09 had a peak number of seminar participants, which total 300. This was attributed to the preparation for the annual CAREER Quest. In September, seminar attendance was 319, down slightly in October to 278, but then rising to 341 in November-now the highest number ever. As a comparison, there were 130 attendees in January '09.



## Careerlink Social Committee TEAM



HoHoHo!! It's that time again! The PA CareerLink Monroe County Holiday Party for 2009 will be held on Friday December 11th at Mount Airy Resort and Casino. Pre buffet cocktails will be at the Glass Bar starting at 5:00 pm and we'll head into dinner at 6:00.



## Careerlink TEAM Meeting Schedule

- Administration Team: Thursday, December 10th at 10:00 am.
- Business Services Team: Wednesday, December 16th at 10:00 am.
- Career Guidance Team: Thursday, December 17th at 9:00 am.
- Customer Information & Resource Team: Wednesday, January 6th at 2:30 pm.



# JOB ORDERS Spotlight



## Pocono Area Ambulance Services Ltd

—Emergency Medical Technician  
-web 665902

## Carbon Monroe Pike MHMR

—Caseworker 2  
-web 667293  
—Caseworker 1  
-web 667291



## Tarczy Trucking Co

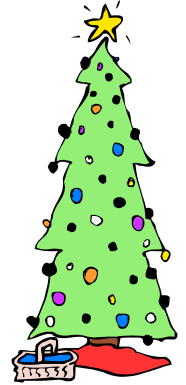
—Tractor Trailer Driver  
-web 665618

## Juicy Couture

—Manager Retail  
-web 665750

## Citizens Bank

—Branch Manager  
-web 663732  
—Banker  
-web 663724



## PA Treatment & Healing

—Day Treatment Supervisor  
-web 666439

## Writing on the Wall

**If you want to leave footprints  
in the sands of time;  
don't drag your feet.**

**-Arnot L. Sheppard**

Merchants Plaza  
P.O. Box 789  
Tannersville, PA 18372-  
0789

Phone: 570-620-2850  
Fax: 570-620-2868  
Fax: 570-620-0546  
TTY: 570-620-2854

**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:

dahmcl@ptd.net  
Phone: 570-620-0782  
Fax: 570-620-0546  
TTY: 570-620-2854

