

SLATE Update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. LOUIS AGENCY ON TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT



Francis G. Slay, Mayor



ST. LOUIS AGENCY ON TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

SLATE

MISSOURI CAREER CENTER

DOWNTOWN • CENTRAL WEST END

Michael K. Holmes, Executive Director

November 2012 Issue

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1 Public Schools Initiative
- 3 Financial Seminars
- 3 New Board Members
- 4 Governor's Award

SLATE Update is a monthly newsletter produced by the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE), part of the City of St. Louis and funded by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). SLATE helps match area job seekers with businesses through a variety of no-cost services.

The purpose of this publication is to share the progress and outcomes of our many programs, and will be of special interest to legislators, Workforce Investment Board members, vendors, partners, educational institutions, other public agencies or anyone with an interest in workforce development.

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FWCA's Culinary Program participants at the Beaumont High School Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, September 2012

SLATE'S PARTNERSHIP WITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS POSITIVELY IMPACTS ST. LOUIS YOUTH

SLATE Youth Services Department has long partnered with the St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS) to help prepare urban youth explore and plan for post-secondary careers. In recent years, Youth Services has expanded this partnership into

the SLPS Initiative, a way to work on-site at City schools, interacting directly with entire classes of young men and women throughout the course of the academic year. Overall, the program has served over 500 youth since 2011.

The youth SLATE is serving at a number of high schools, including Beaumont, Roosevelt, Gateway, and Vashon, range in age from 17 to 21. In many cases, their family or housing situations present barriers to successfully attaining self-sustaining employment. Through SLATE's youth service vendors – Family Workforce Centers of America

(FWCA), MERS Goodwill, Alternative Opportunities/JESS, Employment Connection, and Covenant House Missouri – at-risk students are now receiving personalized tutoring, leadership and volunteerism development, job readiness training, ACT test preparation, and follow-up.

This year, the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) has made available printed job readiness preparation materials specifically designed for youth preparing to enter the workforce for the first time. These publications provide workplace related skill enhancement tutorials while building reading, math, and judgment skill levels.



After graduation, many youth in these programs immediately and actively seek employment; many others continue on to post secondary institutions to further develop their skills. SLATE took an important additional step by partnering with Ranken Technical College to immediately enroll a number of youth from Roosevelt High School into a short-term training program. Ranken President Stan Shoun and his faculty custom-

designed an oil technician certification curriculum specifically to meet the needs of the graduates from Roosevelt. On October 29, the first completers received congratulations at a special ceremony held at the Ranken Tech campus.

Currently, youth from Beaumont High School are participating in training programs that will lead to CNA certification, cosmetology licenses, and culinary certification. SLPS Superintendent Dr. Kelvin Adams has requested that the program expand its presence at Sumner, a historic high school whose celebrated alumni include Tina Turner and Chuck Berry.

“Our collaboration has simply been amazing. Our youth are now in a better position to make healthier decisions and lead healthier lives.”

~ALICE PRINCE, MANAGER SLATE YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SLATE extends its warmest thanks to the many organizations and individuals that have contributed to the success of the SLPS Initiative. Working together, we have seen a significant overall increase in graduation, attendance, attitude, post-secondary enrollment, and job placement among the participants.

Left: Cosmetology student demonstrates training tools, Beaumont High School Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, September 2012. *Bottom:* MERS Goodwill’s Graduates of Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair training program among SLPS Partners, Ranken Tech, October 2012.



SLATE HOSTS FREE FINANCIAL SEMINARS FOR JOB SEEKERS

In collaboration with the Financial Planning Association (FPA) of Greater St. Louis, the Certified Financial Planner (CFP) Board of Standards, the Foundation for Financial Planning, Mayor Francis G. Slay and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, SLATE conducted a series of free Financial Literacy workshops. The program coincided with Financial Planning Day, the annual national financial education campaign, and is designed to help St. Louis residents currently drawing Missouri Unemployment Insurance (UI) to survive on reduced income while looking for employment.

The workshops were held on October 18 and 25 at SLATE Career Center's Central West End (CWE) location.

The workshops were the first-of-its kind effort to involve city governments and thousands of financial planners nationwide to provide no-cost financial education and programs to communities throughout the U.S. "The willingness of so many financial experts to generously donate their time and expertise to help St. Louis City residents is greatly appreciated," said Mayor Slay.

Participants learned to manage their money under the constraints of a tight budget and achieve financial peace of mind in a situation of overall economic uncertainty. Attendees evaluated their assets and liabilities, identified spending habits, developed a financial plan based on their priorities, and worked out a real-life budget. Those in need of further advice had an



Harvey Ziegler, Financial Advisor at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, conducts workshop at SLATE CWE.

opportunity to participate in a Question & Answer session following the workshops. The free workshops were available to all individuals enrolled in the SLATE Career Center system, not just UI claimants.

SLATE WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

SLATE announced the newest members of the City of St. Louis Workforce Investment Board (WIB) at the Swearing In Ceremony on August 15. All seven were appointed by Mayor Francis G. Slay for the term ending June 30, 2014. Below are their bios.

Rhonda Garrett is Management System Specialist at *Anheuser Busch InBev*, where she develops the continuous improvement framework for all North American breweries. Garrett also serves as President and CEO of the Vaski Group, a consulting company with a

reputation for improving efficiency, cycle times and product quality levels for a variety of clients.

A native St. Louisan, she holds a B.A. from Saint Louis University and a Masters of Engineering Management from Washington University.

Roger Hill is General Manager at *Ruth's Chris Steak House*, a fine dining restaurant located in the Hyatt Regency at the Gateway Arch. Mr. Hill has more than three decades of experience in the restaurant industry. A native of Indianapolis, he relocated to St. Louis last year to handle his new responsibilities at Ruth's Chris.

Steven S. Johnson has led economic development initiatives throughout the central United States for over 25 years. Currently Executive Vice President for Economic Development at the *St. Louis Regional Chamber & Growth Association (RCGA)*, Johnson leads a 15-person team and is now implementing a comprehensive five-year strategic plan. A native of Missouri, he is a graduate of Harding University and the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma.

Frank Lamm, Jr. is Deputy Director of the *Unisys Application Modernization Center of Excellence (AMCOE)*, which opened in St. Louis in 2010. Unisys is a worldwide information technology company, while AMCOE provides a team of highly skilled experts that build and maintain leading-edge software applications for both federal and commercial clients. Unisys and SLATE have worked together closely to develop a talented workforce and fill over 300 positions at AMCOE.

Sherry Lappe serves as Vice President, Human Resources for *Lodging Hospitality Management*. She oversees human resources functions of 17 hotels throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area. Her efforts to build a high quality and diverse workforce have led to partnerships with such organizations as MERS Goodwill, the International Institute, and Cultural Homestay International.

Timothy Murrell is Executive Director of the *St. Louis Public Schools' Division of Career and Technical Education (CTE)*, which offers services to learners of all ages and seeks to enhance the St. Louis region's workforce and economic development potential. Murrell is responsible for CTE courses in the District's high schools, as well as Career Education and Adult Technical Education programs.

Jerome F. "Jerry" Sagona is currently the Human Resources Business Partner for *ABB Inc.'s St. Louis Medium Power Transformer plant*, TRES service business and Demand-Side marketing. ABB is a global leader in power and automation technologies with operations in 100 coun-

tries. Sagona, a certified Professional in Human Resources (PHR), has spent the last 22 years in the field. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Louisiana Tech and a Master's degree from Louisiana State University.

Photos of the new WIB members can be found on www.stlworks.com

GOVERNOR'S QUALITY AND PRODUCTIVITY AWARD FOR SLATE YOUTH SERVICES

On October 24, 2012, four work teams were awarded the prestigious *Governor's Award for Quality and Productivity (GAQP)* during a ceremony held in the State Capitol Building, Jefferson City. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Division of Workforce Development, spearheaded the successful nomination of the State Parks Youth Corps (SPYC) Program.

SLATE Missouri Career Center implemented SPYC on a local level, providing youth with summer work experience at the Scott Joplin House, home of the

famed ragtime composer from 1900 to 1903, and a designated National Historic Landmark.

SLATE is honored to be a part of the winning application team, and congratulates the many individuals and organizations that implemented the program, and who made receipt of the Governor's Award possible: Missouri State Parks, the Division of Workforce Development, numerous Workforce Investment Boards statewide, North Central Missouri College and the Full Employment Council.

Alice Prince, Youth Services Manager (*photo: center, second row from bottom*), attended the ceremony on behalf of SLATE. Governor Jay Nixon commended the winners stating that the awards "represent the best in innovative thought, and serve as example in maximizing our limited taxpayer resources."

The GAQP was established in 1988 to recognize Missouri state employees that champion service excellence, efficiency, innovation, technology and process improvement; 24 total applications were received this year.

