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

December 2012 Issue

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

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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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SLATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Michael K. Holmes *(left)* **at STLCC's State of the St. Louis Workforce Event**

On behalf of everyone at the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE), I would like to express my best wishes and tell you a little more about where our organization is headed in 2013.

The core of our service is and will remain focused on helping jobseekers. In particular, the St. Louis community and the nation have seen continuing high numbers of long-term unemployed; many of these men and women are very skilled with years or decades of experience, but the ever-changing nature of the marketplace has placed them at a mid-career turning point. SLATE will continue to make special efforts to reach these customers, help them reskill as needed, and give them all possible support as they resume their valued place in the workforce. Our continuing participation in *the St. Louis Bioscience Jobs Accelerator Project* is one excellent example of this work.

It is predicted that 2013 will be an exciting year for economic development in downtown St. Louis. SLATE will continue to attract and work with businesses to help them expand, matching and referring jobseekers to new career opportunities. As increasing numbers of honored veterans return home, SLATE will renew its commitment to helping them translate their skills and abilities, and to Governor Nixon's suc-

cessful *Show-Me Heroes* initiative. Finally, we will explore the possibility of joining with a number of state Workforce Investment Boards to expand our data management capabilities – the goal being to spend less staff time on the back end and more on direct service to our customers.

As we enter 2013, the City of St. Louis Workforce Investment Board and the staff at SLATE know that many additional changes may lie in store. But through it all, we will remain devoted to shaping a more prosperous future for everyone in our local workforce and all sectors of our area's economy.

SLATE'S NEEDIEST FAMILIES HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

Two families were selected by SLATE's Neediest Families Executive Committee, *The Christmas Bell Bunch,* to help disadvantaged families. On December 21, the fund raiser came to an end with impressive results - **$425** in checks and cash. Families also received over 30 gifts including clothes, shoes, toys, personal and household items - all wrapped in beautiful boxes *(see photo below)*. SLATE's staff understands the hardship and challenges many of our clients must overcome to bring holiday joy to their loved ones. Together we were able to help two families to celebrate this holiday season and share our warmth and kindness with those in need.

SLATE CONTINUES TO HELP RETURNING HEROES

Governor Nixon established the *Show-Me Heroes* initiative in 2010 in order to help returning veterans reenter the workforce, and recognize those companies in Missouri who hire them. Since that time, SLATE has played an active part in implementing *Show-Me Heroes*, partnering with a variety of organizations that serve veterans, and designing and implementing workshops and job fairs specifically for returning members of the military.

City of St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay has praised *Show-Me Heroes* as "an effective way to not only extend our thanks to our brave men and women in uniform, but to ensure that they play a starring role in building a better tomorrow here at home." Most recently, SLATE has integrated a newly developed service, the *Work-Ready Employment Assistance Program (WREAP)*, into Show-Me Heroes. In cooperation with Webster University and other partners, SLATE regularly offers WREAP sessions across the St. Louis region. These full-day workshops help veterans reintegrate into the job market, covering such topics as:

- **Resource Navigation** – A review of the ways veterans can access training dollars and education-related financial aid at the Federal and state level, and a look at the many public and private organizations that can help.

"Show-Me Heroes is an effective way to not only extend our thanks to our brave men and women in uniform, but to ensure that they play a starring role in building a better tomorrow here at home." ~Mayor Francis Slay

- **Business Term Translation** – Exercises that help all veterans better communicate their skill sets into terms civilian employers can better understand.
- **Employment Networking** – Each WREAP session provides access to many hundreds of available jobs in the St. Louis area. A related program, the *Show-Me Heroes Industry Series,* provides veterans with information to help them embark on specific careers, such as finance or law enforcement, and includes a Q&A with industry experts.

Some WREAP sessions have been geared toward partnering agencies that provide veteran services, expanding the scope and reach of Show-Me Heroes. Through the United States Conference of Mayors, other communities have indicated their interest in replicating WREAP sessions for their own veterans.

CITY OF ST. LOUIS WIB ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE) is pleased to announce that the St. Louis City Workforce Investment Board (WIB) convened on December 12, 2012 to confirm officers for the term ending June 30, 2014. The following individuals will lead the 34-member WIB as it continues to align resources, build partnerships and help ensure a skilled, competitive and growing local workforce.

Leonard Toenjes, CAE, has been elected Chairman of the St. Louis City WIB. Since 1996, Toenjes has served as President of Associated General Contractors (AGC) of St. Louis. He began his career as a union carpenter, graduating at the top of his class and earning the Gold Hammer Award for Outstanding Scholastic Achievement. He later served as an instructor and coordinator for the St. Louis Carpenters Joint Apprenticeship Program. Appointed to the City of St. Louis WIB by Mayor Slay in 2002, Toenjes has served on a multitude of other boards and advisory bodies, past and present. These include the Missouri Workforce Investment Board, Missouri State Council on Vocational Education, Missouri State Board of Mediation, the AGC of America's Workforce Development Committee, the St. Louis Career Education District and the Mayor's Charter School Advisory Board, among many others. The recipient of numerous awards, Toenjes has also written and published several textbooks related to the building trades.

Patricia R. Coleman has been confirmed as Vice-Chair. Currently the President/CEO of Behavioral Health Response (BHR), which provides expert health, crisis response and corporate feedback services to companies worldwide, Coleman has been affiliated with that organization since 1996. In addition to the St. Louis WIB, she is a member of the Diversity Awareness Partnership Advisory Council, the Mental Health America of Eastern Missouri and a prior executive member of the National Association of African Americans in Human Resources (NAAAHR) local chapter. A native St. Louisan, Coleman holds a BA from St. Louis University, an MBA from Fontbonne and is a registered surveyor with the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). She is also an

alumni of the St. Louis Business Diversity Initiative Fellows and Focus Leadership St. Louis programs.

Donny J. Carroll will continue his duties as WIB Secretary. He is currently the St. Louis City Functional Leader for the Missouri Division of Workforce Development, with nearly two decades of experience in the field. In July of 1993, Carroll began his career as an Employment Services Technician for the Division of Employment Security. From July 1995 to March 2004, he served in several supervisory positions, and in April 2004 was promoted to WIA Regional Manager before assuming his current duties in 2007. Before his career in workforce development, Carroll served 24 years active military duty in the United States Army, attaining the position of Personnel Officer and the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Four.

Photos of the newly elected WIB officers are available on our website, stlworks.com.

SLATE WORKS WITH SPINNAKER TO DEVELOP DOWNTOWN ST. LOUIS

Spinnaker St. Louis is a real estate development firm responsible for the transformation of the former Dillard's Building and St. Louis Centre. Under the direction of Amos Harris, Spinnaker St. Louis is currently working to redevelop the Mercantile Exchange (MX), activating a new, vibrant mixed-use entertainment, dining and retail district. Located near the intersection of 7th Street and Washington Avenue in downtown St. Louis, the MX, when completed, will boast an Embassy Suites Hotel, several restaurants, residential apartments, retail stores, and public viewing areas for concerts/events. The development is also the planned home for the National Blues Museum and a 3-screen luxury cinema.

In order to help qualify for a New Market Tax Credit, Spinnaker has worked with SLATE since early 2012. Specifically, a qualifying project must commit to local job creation, particularly for disadvantaged local residents. SLATE's Business Development Department has worked closely with Mr. Harris and Spinnaker, marketing job openings to St. Louis City residents and delivering qualified applicants through focused recruitment and participation in job fairs. To date, approximately 500 individuals have been referred from SLATE, with 82 placed in full-time positions such as chef, housekeeping, server, concierge and maintenance.

SLATE's work with Spinnaker has proven to be an outstanding example of a public/private partnership. As additional phases of the MX development are completed and new businesses are opened, SLATE will continue to apply its expertise to outreach and local job creation. Jay Swoboda, Spinnaker St. Louis' MX District Manager/Director of Marketing and Events, looks forward to an ongoing and expanding partnership.

Nanette Tate celebrated good news on January 10, 2013 after learning that she landed a job with *MX Theater,* a new dine-in cinema Spinnaker St. Louis plans to open Downtown. A *Job Fair* was conducted to staff **40** restaurant-type positions and SLATE successfully rounded up hundreds of job seekers on short notice. Tate was among the select few who were asked to come back for an orientation the next day, meaning her long and difficult job hunt is finally over.

MX Theater Job Fair Flier

"I'm glad to work with our employers to educate them more about the services offered by SLATE and the wide variety of applicants you train and support." ~Jay Swoboda, Spinnaker St. Louis