

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

January 2013 Issue

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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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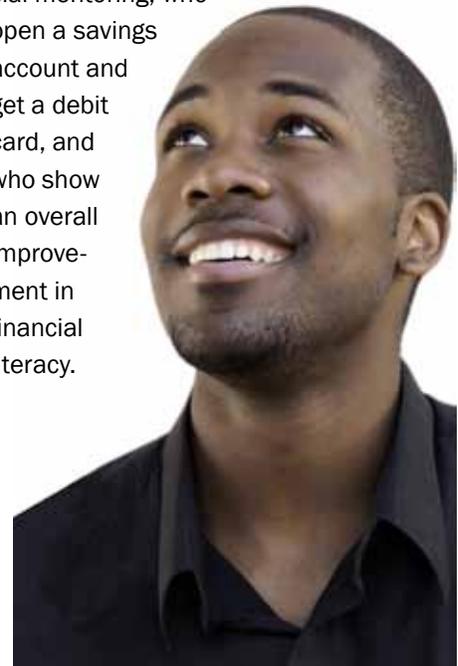
DOLLARWISE GRANT AWARDED TO SUMMER YOUTH JOBS IN ST. LOUIS CITY

The City of St. Louis is the proud recipient of a **\$4,000** grant as part of the United States Conference of Mayors' *2013 DollarWISE Summer Youth Campaign*. DollarWISE is an initiative that encourages mayors nationwide to deliver financial education through local summer youth employment programs. As young men and women enter the workforce and earn their very first paycheck, it is an ideal window in which to instill conscientious habits and financial-management skills that will last a lifetime.

The funds will support *STL Youth Jobs*, a new pilot program launched by a unique collaboration of regional institutions that includes the City of St. Louis Mayor's Office. Specifically, the grant will help STL Youth Jobs conduct outreach to the parents of participants, many of whom are also lacking in financial education, and to create family financial planning workshops; the St. Louis

Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE) will assist with these activities as well as youth job placement.

With additional support from area businesses, individuals and philanthropic organizations, it is anticipated that *STL Youth Jobs* will serve **500** participants throughout the summer of 2013. The success of this new program will be measured by tracking the number of youth who participate in financial mentoring, who open a savings account and get a debit card, and who show an overall improvement in financial literacy.



SLATE ANNOUNCES BOUNCEBACK WORKSHOP FOR PROFESSIONALS

The St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE) is pleased to announce the return of Bounceback St. Louis in 2013, an organization that assists adult job-seekers, especially dislocated workers, transitioning professionals, and the long-term unemployed, with a variety of no-cost services.

Bounceback hosted a free Nitty Gritty Workshop on January 17 at Webster Groves Christian Church, attended by over **50** job-seekers. Additional workshops will be offered throughout the year. Whether you are just starting your job search or looking to inject new energy into your efforts, Bounceback sessions can help through specific advice, pointers and exercises. Skill identification, accomplishment stories, resume construction, personal marketing,



using LinkedIn as a job search tool, networking and interviewing are some of the many topics covered.

A program originally established by the Regional Chamber and Growth Association (RCGA), Bounceback St. Louis has been administered by SLATE since 2011. The program encompasses an extremely wide network of valuable partners across the region, includ-

Top Photo: Frank Danzo, presenter for Innovate U, gives career advice to a Bounceback Workshop participant.

Bottom Left: Participants at the Nitty Gritty Workshop.

ing the St. Louis County Division of Workforce Development, the St. Louis Job Angels, major universities and educational institutions, human resources and professional associations, and hundreds of local employers and business chambers.

City of St. Louis Mayor Francis G. Slay praises the Bounceback program, saying, "In a short period of time, it has become an outstanding resource for both jobseekers and employers. Locally, there is no organization better suited to help anyone attain their career goals."

"We hear from many Bounceback participants who have picked up a specific piece of advice that led to full-time employment", states SLATE Executive Direc-



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tor Michael Holmes. “These no-cost workshops help jobseekers stay focused and connected.”

As the result of a Request for Proposal process last year, SLATE awarded the Bounceback service delivery contract to Innovate U, a local organization that specializes in career and leadership development and helps jobseekers in a variety of ways, including marketing through social media, and the establishment of entrepreneurial ventures.

RAPID RESPONSE TO HOSTESS LAYOFF

For more than eight decades, Hostess Brands, Inc. produced pastries and treats that became part of the fabric of American life. When the company closed its doors last November, it affected more than **18,000** workers nationwide, including over **2,000** in Missouri and Illinois. In the City of St. Louis, **365** employees at the local bakery suddenly found themselves without employment, in addition to dozens more workers at local retail outlets.

SLATE staff immediately coordinated with the Missouri DWD State Rapid Response Team and a variety of other public and pri-

ivate organizations to ensure that those affected by the Hostess closure were made aware of all the resources available to them.

In close cooperation with the AFL-CIO and organized labor representatives from the appropriate unions (Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco and Grain Millers; Teamsters; and Machinists), a series of three “Surviving Layoff” Workshops were held at various locations in December. Each extensive session featured presentations from the Missouri AFL-CIO, SLATE and the St. Louis County Division of Workforce Development, Missouri Veterans Commission, US Department of Labor, IRS, Social Security Administration, United Way, and Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, among others. Lunches were provided to all participants courtesy of Teamsters Local 688, and all agency representatives were available afterwards for individual consultation and Q&A.

SLATE Executive Director Michael Holmes states, “In situations like this, the regional approach is gen-

erally the most effective one. My thanks to all the organizations and individuals who were so generous with their time and effort. We will continue to work together to ensure that those affected by this layoff find quality jobs and new careers.”

GRADUATE! ST. LOUIS IMPACTS CAREERS AND LIVES

The Graduate! St. Louis (GSL) Workforce Consortium was established in 2010 through a **\$4.4** million grant from the Department of Labor. Administered by SLATE, GSL is a partnership between community colleges and career centers across the bi-state St. Louis Metropolitan area. GSL is on track to meet or exceed its stated goal of helping **2,250** area jobseekers attain the skills, degrees and/or credentials they need to succeed in three key industries: Healthcare, IT and Emerging Green Jobs. Below are the stories of three individuals helped by Graduate! St. Louis.

Southwestern Illinois College: Yvetta

Yvetta enrolled in a GSL-funded pre-CNA program at the age of 61 ready to make meaningful changes



Photo Credit: PAUL J. RICHARDS /AFP/Getty Images

Education is an Investment in Your Future

A college education is the key to success, higher income and better careers



- Over **10 percent** of adults without a high school education are considered to be in poverty. This figure is only three percent for those with a bachelor's degree.
 - Compared to high school graduates, average income for those with a two-year degree increases by **22 percent**, while for those with a bachelor's degree income increases by 85 percent.
 - Estimated lifetime earnings for those with a high school diploma is \$1.2 million; this jumps to **\$1.6 million** for those with a two-year degree and \$2.1 million for those with a bachelor's.
 - According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, women who graduate from college earn about **76 percent** more than women with a high school diploma.
- Nationwide, unemployment rates are higher for those with less education. In 2010, 10 percent for high school graduates, eight percent for those with some college, four percent for bachelor's degree holders.
 - In St. Louis, the average unemployment rate for those with a bachelor's was 2.7 percent compared to eight percent for those with a high school diploma.

in her life. After decades as a commercial and school bus driver, she always remembered the special joy she experienced in her first job as a nurse aide in East St. Louis. Yvetta brought experience and maturity to her class and by the end of the eight week course, she had increased her reading level from 4.6 to 7.4. Qualifying for the CNA class, she went on to impress her instructors, serve as a role model to the other students, and earn an A. Yvetta is proof positive that it is never too late to change tracks or recapture a dream, and is well on her way to becoming a Certified Nurse Assistant.

St. Louis Community College: Beverly Ann

After three full decades with a major area company, Beverly Ann found herself a dislocated worker in 2010. After reading a Medical Information Intake Specialist (MIIS) flyer at a Missouri Career Center, Beverly contacted the Metropolitan Education and Training (MET) Center and enrolled in the eight-week accelerated class. Despite initial reservations on her ability to keep pace, she was quickly made to feel welcome by the commitment and support of the MET Center staff. She completed the program with a 3.4 GPA and soon after started volunteer work in the BJC Missouri Baptist Hospital cafeteria. Her interest, ability and rapport with

*Left: **Why Graduate?** Excerpt from Graduate! St. Louis promotional brochure, produced by SLATE.*

patients earned her the attention of senior staff, and she successfully applied for a Unit Medical Secretary position when it opened up. Beverly credits the Graduate! St. Louis MIIS program with giving her the strength to pursue another career, and realize her personal and professional goals.

East Central College: Ron

Ron was a non-traditional student in his second semester at East Central College. Struggling with unemployment and poverty, and raising two children as a single father, Ron was severely challenged by a fire that destroyed his home and possessions. Although fortunately no one was hurt, his transitional housing situation naturally affected his ability to pursue his studies. With the support of GSL staff and the help of the Vice President of Student Development, Ron successfully applied for a student worker position in the maintenance department. Furthermore, the on-campus AHERO organization held several fundraisers on his behalf, and helped him reestablish himself and his family in a new apartment. Overwhelmed but thankful for the outpouring of support he received, Ron went on to successfully attain a degree in green technology and pursue full-time employment.

“Thanks goes to the team of trainers and administration for helping regain what I thought I had lost—hope.” ~CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR, ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE