

SLATE Update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. LOUIS AGENCY ON TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT (SLATE)



Francis G. Slay, Mayor



ST. LOUIS AGENCY ON TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

SLATE

MISSOURI CAREER CENTER

Michael K. Holmes, Executive Director

americanjobcenter

August 2014 Issue

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1 Youth Grants
- 2 WIOA Reauthorization
- 3 Veterans Success Story
- 4 SLATE in Pictures and More.

SLATE Update is a monthly newsletter produced by the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE), a unit of St. Louis City government helping 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.

To subscribe/unsubscribe to SLATE Update, please send a request to sbostick@stlworks.com.

DISCLAIMER: SLATE is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Missouri Relay Services at 711.



SLATE RECEIVES TWO GRANTS TO SERVE YOUTH, RANKEN TO PROVIDE TECH TRAINING

SLATE was recently awarded two competitive grants, one from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to reestablish *YouthBuild*, the other from the Department of Justice (DOJ) to serve youth released from the juvenile justice system.

The DOL grant totals **\$1,098,580** in order to return *YouthBuild* to our community. The funds will be used to serve **75** disadvantaged City of St. Louis youth ages 16-24 as part of *YouthBuild-Northside Regeneration*, giving them the ability to earn pay, help build affordable housing

“We have worked long and hard to bring additional resources to disadvantaged City youth. It is an especially timely return for YouthBuild, as it will directly connect to the ongoing efforts by so many organizations to renew our urban core.” ~ M.K.HOLMES

for low-income families, develop leadership skills, obtain industry-recognized certifications in construction, and pursue meaningful employment. The program will link participants with the massive, ongoing effort to renew 1,500 acres

of historically impoverished neighborhoods in north St. Louis now owned by *McEagle Properties*, a real estate development firm founded by **Paul J. McKee, Jr.** in 1990.

The DOJ grant, in the amount of **\$520,954**, is part of the *Second Chance Act Technology Career Training Program* for Incarcerated Adults and Juveniles. This new funding establishes the *You Only Live Once (YOLO) – Tech Training* program, aiming to reduce rates of

“The City of St. Louis welcomes the return of this program to our community with open arms. The program will extend a helping hand to young men and women as they build new homes for City residents and new lives for themselves.”

~MAYOR SLAY

recidivism among **35** high risk St. Louis City youth released from the juvenile justice system through intensive case management, tuition assistance and access to

substance abuse prevention and mental health services.

Ranken Technical College is a key partner in both programs, providing classroom instruction and worksite supervision to *YouthBuild* participants, and grant-funded tuition assistance to *YOLO-Tech Training* participants. SLATE and Ranken look forward to coordinating their resources in order to provide City youth with the opportunity to learn skills, earn in-demand industry certificates and pursue degrees.

SLATE’s Executive Director Michael K. Holmes said, “We have worked long and hard to bring additional resources to disadvantaged City youth. It is an especially timely return for *YouthBuild*, as it will directly connect to the ongoing efforts by so many organizations to renew our urban core.” Over **100** youth will benefit from the newly available educational, job training and career opportunities made possible through these grants.

Over the past year, SLATE and its partners have successfully pursued a total of nearly **\$2.8 million** in grants from DOL and DOJ to assist at-risk St. Louis City youth through training, mentorship, and a variety of supportive services. Case management and volunteer mentor coordination services for *YouthBuild-Northside Regeneration* and/or *YOLO-Tech Training* are to be contracted by SLATE to outside vendors through an RFP process.

WORKFORCE REAUTHORIZATION BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

On July 22, President Obama signed legislation known as the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)* into law. The bill reauthorizes many aspects of the original *Workforce Investment Act (WIA)* of 1998, while also making some important changes. WIOA represents a compromise between the SKILLS Act (H.R. 803), which passed the House of Representatives in March of 2013, and the *Workforce Investment Act of 2013* (S. 1356), which recently passed the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee.

WIOA recognizes the fact that by 2022 the U.S. will see a shortfall of 11 million needed workers with postsecondary education, whether bachelor’s degrees, associate’s degrees or a vocational certificate. The new Act aims to prepare workers for a competitive 21st century workforce, while helping businesses find the skilled employees they need.

A few of the changes that WIOA makes are summarized below:

- Streamlines workforce development by eliminating 15 redundant programs and applying a single set of outcome metrics to every federal workforce program under the Act; overall evaluation and data reporting requirements have been strengthened.

- The minimum required size for local workforce development boards has been reduced from 51 to 19, while maintaining a business-led majority. WIOA allows local boards to transfer up to 100 percent of funds between adult and dislocated worker activities for maximum flexibility.

- Strengthens the connection between adult education, post-secondary education and the workforce, improving services to English language learners and requiring additional research and evaluation on these services.

- An increased focus on out-of-school youth, changing the percentage of designated funds in this category from 30 to 75 percent of total youth funding (individual states may request to decrease this to 50).

- Strengthened the ability of workforce development agencies like SLATE to use *On-the-Job*

Training (OJT), with reimbursement rates of up to 75 percent for eligible employers.

WIOA also specifies appropriation levels for the fiscal years 2015-2020. SLATE will work to incorporate these and other changes into our daily operations as we strive to provide quality service to our customers. More information can be found at doleta.gov/wioa.

The new legislation will take effect on July 1, 2015.

GLENN BOLDEN: A VETERAN HELPING VETERANS

Glenn Bolden served in the U.S. Coast Guard for over 30 years, and became aware of SLATE and Missouri Career Centers through **Frank Alaniz**, Regional Workforce Liaison, at a *Yellow Ribbon* event. Later, he introduced himself to SLATE's Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER), **Martin Payne**, at a *Go! Network* event sponsored by *St. Patrick Center*.

As a Chief Warrant Officer, Bolden primarily performed administrative and human resources functions for the Coast Guard; nevertheless he found interacting with Frank and Martin to be a valuable guide as he prepared to retire from the military and transition to the civilian workforce. He incorporated their pointers to revise and refresh his resume before launching his job search. He also enjoyed meeting and greeting numerous other veterans that were in the process of mustering out, and became a regular at *Hire Our Heroes*, *WREAP* sessions and other special events.



"The most invaluable aspect of my relationship with Frank and Martin has been building a veteran network, which assisted me personally and professionally," he told us.

In late 2012, He secured a position as the Chief, Records Retrieval Branch at the National Personnel Records Center. A perfect match for his skills and experience, Bolden found that in his new job SLATE's network continues to be of service as he refers veterans and student employees to appropriate career opportunities. "Use the resources available to you and never underestimate your value

Glenn Bolden (top row, fourth from left) with veterans, **M. Holmes** and **Senator McCaskill**, **Soldiers' Memorial, St. Louis, March 17, 2014.**

to the civilian workforce," he tells veteran jobseekers. "When the opportunity for an interview happens, be prepared. Preparation is key to landing the desired position."

Bolden acknowledges that transitioning to the civilian sector can be more difficult than many realize. But he feels that if veterans can accurately articulate their skills, and employers recognize their value, it is truly a win-win situation. "The

State of Missouri, City of St. Louis, and veterans at large must know they are very fortunate to have people such as Frank and Martin working for them," he adds. "Businesses in the local St. Louis region benefit greatly [from] the efforts of the SLATE office and having veterans vetted to them."

EVENTS *Calendar*

- **Aug. 26:** *The Tenants of Ballpark Village Job Fair.*
- **Aug. 28:** *EBLAP: Legal Clinic.*
- **Sept. 4:** *EBLAP: Legal Clinic.*
- **Sept. 10:** *EBLAP: Employment Contracts.*
- **Sept. 18:** *EBLAP: Legal Clinic.*



**PRAIRIE FARMS
JOB FAIR A HUGE
SUCCESS**

◀ Participants fill out applications at the Prairie Farms recruitment event on June 19, 2014.



**LACLEDE GAS RECEIVES
SHOW-ME HEROES AWARD**

◀ Stacy Anderson (*center*), Talent Acquisition Coordinator, represents Laclede Gas at the Show-Me-Heroes Awards Ceremony, held on June 18, 2014 at SLATE. Beside her are Martin Payne, SLATE's Local Veterans' Employment Representative (*left*), and a veteran who recently joined Laclede's staff. A total of **8** companies were presented with awards for their participation in the program.

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS UNION AT SLATE

▶ A representative of Local Union No.3, Elevator Constructors answers questions about their training program at an information session on August 5, 2014.



**SLATE ASSISTS ANDY FRAIN
SECURITY JOB FAIR**

◀ Colin Holman (*right*), a Recruiter from Andy Frain Services, makes a job offer to a security applicant on July 15, 2014, at SLATE.