

# SLATE Update

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



Francis G. Slay, Mayor



February 2014 Issue

## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1 Engineering Success Story
- 2 1st Annual Youth Awards
- 3 OJT and Bioscience
- 3 Hiring for Love's North St. Louis and More

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.

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

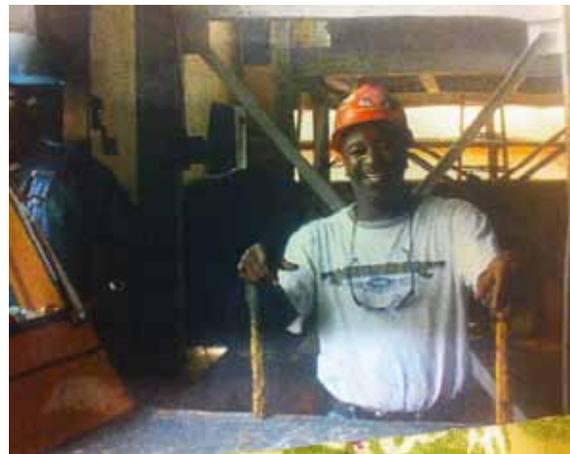
## FORMER SLATE YOUTH CUSTOMER RECRUITS A NEW GENERATION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS



**Byron Saunders, Sr.** (Photo: right, pictured with Stacey Fowler, SLATE) conducted an information session on behalf of *Operating Engineers Local 513* at SLATE Downtown location last year - as it turned out, this was not his first encounter with the City's workforce development agency. In his teens, he was one of many St. Louis youth placed

into summer employment through SLATE's WIA Youth program. To this day, Saunders remembers the experience as one that started him on the career path he is successfully pursuing today. SLATE, Byron told us, instills local youth with "[a sense of] responsibility and a good work ethic," helping them take pride of ownership as they earn wages.

While working on the streets of St. Louis as a youth customer, keeping its sidewalks and parks clean, Saunders became curious about operating the heavy equipment he observed. He was introduced to the Construction Training Center on Knox In-



Saunders at Chrysler Plant in Fenton.

dustrial Drive where he was placed in a pre-apprenticeship program. Later, Saunders was assigned to a project at Lambert Airport working as an oiler maintaining a massive crane driving piling. In about a year, the union dispatched Saunders to a job with premier industrial contractor Alberici, where he stayed for the next 28 years.

At Alberici, Saunders served as a steward on major St. Louis area projects including Metro-Link, the TWA Dome, the Chrysler Plant, and many others. At times, his profession presented challenges, such as successfully maneuvering a 28 ton crane or having to climb to an altitude of over 400 feet daily, but Saunders said these experiences gave him the practical knowledge so vital to his job today. Saunders has held officer positions with the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 513 working with Labor and Management; since 2012 He has been the union's Business Representative, overseeing the fair execution of collective bargaining agreements.

According to Saunders, job opportunities in the construction industry have been steadily, if gradually, growing. IUOE Local 513 is looking forward to working with SLATE throughout 2014 to locate quality candidates interested in entering the construction industry, particularly Operating Engineers. Saunders said that the Operating Engineers have an excellent Apprentice Training program with highly qualified and accredited instructors. "By partnering with SLATE, IUOE Lo-



Saunders builds a new addition to Cardinal Glennon Hospital.

---

cal 513 feels confident we can expand our membership with highly skilled, highly trained members" from all backgrounds, he tells us. Decades ago, SLATE set him on a path to success, and Byron Saunders want to make sure that young men and women today are given the same opportunity.

### **SLATE RECOGNIZES YOUTH LEADERS**

SLATE hosted the *First Annual Youth Leadership Workforce Awards Luncheon* at Ruth's Chris

Steak House on January 31. Leadership development has always been a core component of SLATE's Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funded Youth Program; the first recipients of the Youth Leadership Workforce Award are young men and women who best demonstrate the qualities of persistence, teamwork and goal-setting.

The **15** youth awardees were matched and dined with mentors - business and community leaders who gladly volunteered to participate in the Awards Luncheon. SLATE's Executive Director, **Michael K. Holmes**, served as key note speaker and personally presented each youth with their award and a bag of various take-aways, all donated by area companies and organizations. In addition, the management of Ruth's Chris made an informative presentation on etiquette in a fine dining environment.

Among the VIPs in attendance were **Adolphus Pruitt**, President of the local NAACP chapter, who



Michael Holmes with youth and Deborah Stovall, FWCA, Jan. 31, 2014.

told the youth leaders to: “never be afraid to try new things... life is long!”; and **Zed Smith**, Vice President at The Cordish Company, who has helped make Ballpark Village a reality, noted that “Success takes discipline and control... the ability to concentrate on goals and not be distracted by immediate gratification.”



Michael Holmes gave the youth tips on professional networking and challenged the mentors in attendance to “always take their calls – connections really do make a difference.”

**SLATE HELPS GROW BIOSCIENCE START-UPS**

For more than two years, SLATE has worked closely with the *St. Louis Economic Development Partnership*, the *St. Louis Minority Supplier Development Council* and the *Center for Emerging Technologies (CET)* to engage area employers. Guided by strategic input from the partnership’s project steering committee, the *St. Louis Bioscience Jobs Accelerator* has targeted smaller, incubator enterprises seeking to establish themselves in this dynamic and innovative sector as the best method to ensure long-term economic and workforce growth.

SLATE’s On-the-Job Training (OJT) funds provided through the *Jobs Accelerator* have helped both to retain and attract talent to the *St. Louis* region through wage reimbursement for up to six months. These resources have given numerous

smaller bioscience start-ups the critical boost they needed to bring their ideas and products to market. To date, SLATE has negotiated OJT contracts for **46** individuals hired into the bioscience sector. Several companies, including those listed above, have hired multiple staff through this process, spurring their growth. **Dr. Ken Gibson**, the president and chief scientific officer of *Ionic Transport Assays*, currently has five employees, three

**Selected OJT Contract Bioscience Employers (3 or more):**

- Appistry
- Confluence Life Sciences
- Ionic Transport Assays
- Lloyd Industries
- Pharos Scientific
- Seventh Wave

of which were hired through OJT; he has praised the services he has received and looks forward to continued assistance and expansion.

**FEBRUARY CALENDAR**



- **February 13, 10 - 11 a.m.:** *Laclede Gas informational event.* Company Representatives will answer questions and talk about openings.
- **February 18, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.:** *Ballpark Village Open-Call session.* Participants will meet and greet with hiring managers and submit their resumes.
- **February 20, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.:** *Plasterers Local No. 3 Training info session.* Counselors will explain their apprenticeship program, the application process, provide career guidance.
- **February 27, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.:** *Iron Workers Local No. 396 Construction Training School info session.*



Further details and updates can be found at <https://stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/slate/Public-Events.cfm>.

**SLATE HELPS LOVE'S HIRE WORKERS FOR NEW NORTH ST. LOUIS LOCATION**



Photo: Mayor Slay, Jimmy Williams, McDonald's franchise owner (2<sup>nd</sup> right), Alderwoman Flowers (2<sup>nd</sup> left), at the ribbon cutting at Love's.

Love's Travel Stops opened up a new location just off Interstate 70 in north St. Louis on December 12, 2013. A full-service facility, it features McDonald's and Subway restaurants, a gourmet coffee selection, gift merchandise, travel items and more. 97 parking spaces are available for professional truck drivers along with an on-site Love's Truck Tire Care center.

The opening came nearly a month after the company held a job fair at SLATE to fill a number of open positions. "SLATE's program allowed us the opportunity to interview more than **300** candidates, which gave us a broader selection for our team members. Love's is known for its 'Clean Places, Friendly Faces' nationwide. We wouldn't be able to meet that standard of customer service in St. Louis without finding the best and hardest working team members," said a Love's representative.

According to Love's, SLATE was instrumental in the local hiring process. To bring the new Travel Stop to North St. Louis, SLATE worked alongside several other local organizations and members of the community, such as *Green Street Development Group*, which attracted Love's to the site, *St. Louis Development Corporation (SLDC)*, the economic development agency for the City of St. Louis, and Ward 2 Alderwoman **Dionne Flowers**, who applauded everyone's efforts in making Love's St. Louis a reality.

To celebrate the new location, Love's held a ribbon cutting ceremony on January 14, 2014. **Mayor Francis G. Slay** attended and spoke to the economic impact of the new location; SLATE's Executive Director, Michael Holmes, and his staff were among the honorary guests.



**ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR UNEMPLOYED VETERANS**



SLATE's Veterans Representative Martin Payne (photo: 2<sup>nd</sup> left) received the Above and Beyond Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a national organization that promotes a culture in which employers support and value their military employees. ESGR's **Brandy Scheer** (left) visited SLATE in January.

*"Martin has been a huge asset to both ESGR and the military populations that we serve. He has truly gone above and beyond the call of duty and we consider ourselves very lucky to have him on our team."* ~BRANDY SCHEER, ESGR.