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
DOWNTOWN • CENTRAL WEST END

Michael K. Holmes, Executive Director

www.stlworks.com

July/August 2013 Issue

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Juvenile Offenders Grant
2. Businesses Hiring Veterans Recognition
3. New WIB Member
3. Project Developers' Support

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 RECEIVES FACE FORWARD-SERVING JUVENILE OFFENDERS GRANT

The U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration awarded the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE) **$818,165** under the *"Face Forward"* grant program, aimed at helping juvenile offenders obtain employment and access needed for support services. SLATE was one of **28** organizations nationwide to receive funding under this new program. The grant was announced

Photo *(from left):* Judge **Jimmy Edwards, Halbert Sullivan,** FSC President and CEO, **Michael K. Holmes,** SLATE Executive Director, Mayor **Francis G. Slay,** July 16, 2013.

YOLO to assist over 100 juvenile offenders find employment and support services

at a press conference held at Fathers' Support Center (FSC) on July 16 with Mayor Slay, program partners, and media representatives in attendance. FSC is the recent recipient of an additional DOL grant under the Training to Work-Adult Reentry initiative, which will complement SLATE's efforts.

Under the grant, SLATE will operate the *You Only Live Once (YOLO)* StL Youth Diversion Program over the next three years. YOLO StL is designed to assess more than **100** juveniles and provide them with intensive case management while individually matching each youth with a volunteer mentor. Participants must be residents of the City of St. Louis, between the ages of 16 and 24, and have current or past involvement with the juvenile justice system.

"What do at-risk youth need? Education and jobs. These grants will help provide those key assets." ~Judge Jimmy Edwards.

Each participant will be engaged in paid summer employment or other work and matched with a variety of service learning experiences, to gain access to the skills needed to pursue full-time employment and/or a post-secondary education. Washington University School of Law's Civil Justice Clinic will provide no-cost advice to YOLO participants, ensuring that they fully understand all the legal rights to which they are entitled and are provided with representation as appropriate.

At the press conference, Mayor Slay noted that "YOLO will give our community's young men and women every chance for success." Judge Jimmy Edwards, who helped found the Innovative Concept Academy, was also in attendance and posed the question, "What do they [at-risk youth] need? Education and jobs. These grants will help provide those key assets."

SLATE Executive Director Michael Holmes stated that "SLATE acts as a convener and a facilitator; we will manage this grant, but we won't spend it all. Soon, we will have an open bid and proposal process that our community partners are welcome to participate in."

Among the numerous other individuals and agencies that have endorsed YOLO are Judge David Mason on behalf of the St. Louis Family Court – Juvenile Division, Circuit Attorney Jennifer M. Joyce, the St. Louis Workforce Investment Board, the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, the Missouri Department of Corrections and the Missouri Department of Social Services.

MAYOR SLAY RECOGNIZES FOUR SHOW-ME HEROES EMPLOYERS

Representatives from four local companies gathered for a press conference hosted by City of St. Louis Mayor Francis G. Slay on July 23, 2013, to receive the Flag of Freedom Award. The Award was established through the Show-Me Heroes initiative, introduced by Governor Nixon in January 2010, and was designed to recognize companies who endorsed the Show-Me Heroes program. Administered by the Missouri Division of Workforce Development within the Department of Economic Development, the Show-Me Heroes program has connected thousands of Missouri veterans to job opportunities available to them in the civilian marketplace once they complete their military duties.

The Award was received by the following companies who have been active participants in the Show-Me Heroes program and made a special effort to reintegrate our returning heroes into the civilian world: **Boxes of St. Louis, Inc.,** an independent corrugated box plant which manufactures and distributes cardboard boxes for various uses; **Jost Chemical,** which produces high purity specialty chemicals for the pharmaceutical, nutritional food, and other specialty markets; **Metro MFG,** specializing in manufacturing granite counter tops; **Securitas Security Services USA,** which offers integrated security services for businesses, including guarding, mobile security, remote guarding and corporate risk management.

The event was attended by Tommy Sowers, VA Assistant Secretary, who said that the four above-mentioned companies have helped to make a real impact on veterans' unemployment. "Veterans' unemployment, including post-911 veterans, is beneath the national average. It is a true honor to have an opportunity to make a difference," he said.

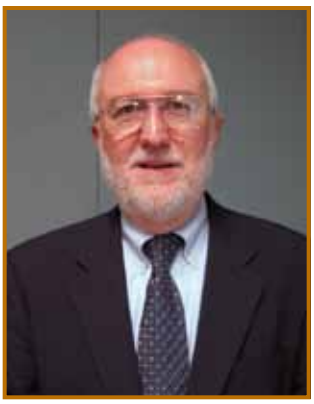
Photo (from left): Lt. Jon Barry, Show-Me Heroes Director, Michael K. Holmes, SLATE Executive Director, Representatives from Securitas Security Services, Inc, Tommy Sowers, VA Assistant Secretary, at the Flag of Freedom Award Ceremony at the City Hall, July 2013.

To date, well over **3,000** Missouri businesses have taken the Show-Me Heroes pledge to reach out to, train and hire returning veterans, including more than **500** in the St. Louis area.

THE ST. LOUIS WIB WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

SLATE is proud to welcome the newest member of the St. Louis Workforce Investment Board (WIB), **James R. Skain.** who was introduced to the Board members in June.

Skain has been with the Division of Employment Security Appeals Section since 1978 and is currently a Labor and Industrial Relations manager who supervises Jefferson City, St. Louis, Kansas City and Springfield Referee staff. "This is natural to me to be involved [with the St. Louis WIB] as I have an office in the Wainwright Building [also known as the Wainwright State Office Building], even though I'm based in Jefferson City."



Ever since Missouri established its own unemployment insurance program in the 1930s, Missouri's Division of Employment Security has been administering state compensations to individuals who lose their jobs through no fault of their own. According to Skain, being a lawyer and serving in the Appeals Office has made him fully aware of the Office's important role in the unemployment process. He is hopeful to share his knowledge to benefit St. Louis City residents. "By law, the Unemployment Division is a member of the local workforce investment board automatically." Skain said.

When asked about his future role on the St. Louis WIB, Skain said that he will bring updates affecting unemployment insurance policies to the Board, and will relate his Agency's challenges and difficulties, such as sequestration, if they affect certain benefits. In the future, he hopes to become a regular part of the WIB's agenda.

Skain is expected to be sworn in this August.

SLATE FORMS NEW DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST PROJECT DEVELOPERS

SLATE has assigned three full-time professional staff to the new Developers' and Contractors' Support Services (DCSS) department. DCSS will assist any developer or contractor meet the workforce diversity goals required by St. Louis City Ordinance 69427. All developers and contractors seeking to bid on City of St. Louis public work contracts, Tax Increment Financed (TIF) projects and City bonded projects valued at over $1 million must agree to

abide by Ordinance 69427's labor hour requirements: Apprentices (15%); Minorities (25%); Women (5%); and City Residents (20%). Those developers working on wholly private funded projects in St. Louis City redevelopment areas are also asked to voluntarily make a good faith effort towards compliance with these goals.

Bob Petrich, the DCSS Project Lead, describes his new role: "I meet with contractors and subcontractors to explain the goals and offer assistance. I also review workforce diversity reports from contractors and coordinate meetings to periodically address compliance and assistance issues." Petrich is aided by **Armand Paulet,** SLATE's Labor Resource Specialist, who coordinates with construction trade unions to refer apprentices, women, minorities and city residents needed by contractors to meet their workforce diversity goals and **Earl Strauther,** who prepares administrative, quality control, and procedural documents.

City Ordinance 69427 gives SLATE the ability to enforce the workforce diversity goals, up to and including barring parties from participation in public works projects. Petrich explains, "We will make multiple efforts to assist contractors in complying with the Ordinance including visits, meetings and referral of individual workers needed to achieve their diversity goals. However, failure to submit required documentation and reports, failure to meet to resolve issues or failure to use good faith efforts to comply, may constitute a material breach of the Ordinance." The DCSS team also helps arrange information sessions to encourage women and minorities to enter into apprenticeship programs in the building trades.

SLATE TO HOST CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION SESSION

On August 27, SLATE's Downtown Career Center will host the first in a series of Construction Information Sessions in cooperation with Operating Engineers Local 513. Anyone with an interest in operating or maintaining heavy equipment, or entering related construction careers such as surveying and stationary/facility engineering, is encouraged to attend.

The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), with approximately **400,000** members in **123** local unions throughout the United States and Canada, will be present to provide information on their training and apprenticeship programs. Those who complete the *Local 513 Apprenticeship Program* earn credit toward an Associate's degree at several area community colleges.

Additional information on this session can be obtained by contacting **Stacey Fowler** at sfowler@stlworks.com. The event is co-sponsored by SLATE, Local 513, MSD and the Association for Construction Careers, Education and Support Services (ACCESS).

Photo: SLATE Developers' and Contractors' Support Services team: (*from left):* Bob Petrich, Armand Paulet, Earl Strauther.