

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

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Michael K. Holmes, Executive Director

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June 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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MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SLATE has now entered our 2013-2014 Program Year, and *SLATE Update* will continue to provide our partners, vendors and other stakeholders with insights into our ongoing workforce development efforts.

One newly expanded partnership I would like to highlight is that between SLATE and the St. Louis Development Corporation (SLDC). Both agencies can be found at St. Louis City Hall West, but, more importantly, we are both

Photo: Grounds of Ballpark Village, Spring 2013

concerned with helping create opportunities throughout our community. **Rodney Crim** and **Otis Williams**, both of SLDC, me, and our respective staff members work closely together to ensure that new and expanding businesses have rapid access to everything they might need: appropriate facilities, guidance on tax credits and

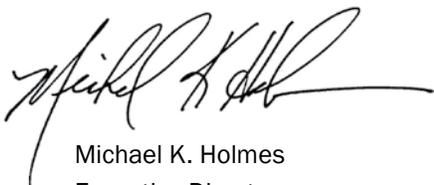
“The combined economic impact will be monumental, and we expect tens of thousands of new jobs to be created as a result.” ~MICHAEL K. HOLMES, SLATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

other incentives, and the ability to reach out to and secure the labor talent they need to thrive.

Among the projects SLDC and SLATE are working together on are the Northside Regeneration, the expansion of CORTEX, The City Walk on Euclid, the redevelopment of the Carondelet Coke site, and the upcoming Ballpark Village. The combined economic impact will be monumental, and we expect tens of thousands of new jobs to be created as a result.

The Obama administration has made it clear that cross-agency communication and coordination will increasingly be a key to reducing duplication of effort and maximizing results. In the years to come, SLATE looks forward to working with SLDC and many other organizations toward this end.

Sincerely yours,



Michael K. Holmes
Executive Director

GRADUATE! ST. LOUIS GIVES ADULT LEARNERS A SECOND CAREER

The Graduate! St. Louis (GSL) Workforce Consortium was established in 2010 through a \$4.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. Administered by SLATE, GSL is a partnership between community colleges and career centers across the bi-state St. Louis Metropolitan Area. As of now, GSL has far exceeded its original goals and helped over 3,500 individuals return to school and obtain the degrees, credentials or certificates of value they need to succeed.

SLATE recently learned from GSL partner East Central College (ECC) that **Jay Schafler** of Villa Ridge

has received their *Outstanding Student Award*. Schafler was able to return to college after an injury ended his previous career as an auto mechanic with the support of his family and financial assistance through Graduate! St. Louis. Jay majored in pre-engineering at ECC and is now positioned to attend the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla next year and pursue a bachelor's degree in mining engineering.

Cookie Hays, vice president of student development at East Central, commented on Schafler's reputation on campus as respectful, hard-working, considerate and driven to succeed. "Jay knew it was important to find ways to become actively involved and to connect



Photo: Jay Schafler with Cookie Hays, Vice-President of Student Development at ECC, May 18, 2013.

with others on campus,” said Hays. “He found that connection through the A HERO Club, a student organization on ECC’s Union campus, which focuses on helping adult students stay in school.” Schafler was president of the A HERO Club and frequently tutored and encouraged students. He was also a Student Government Association representative and member of Phi Theta Kappa scholastic honor fraternity.

Eilene Acheson, ECC’s retention coordinator, noted that Schafler was always the level head in the crowd who stood up for what was right. “He had a lot to balance, but he always kept things under control,” she said. “No task was too big for him to tackle.”

Dr. Barry Bookout, associate professor of pre-engineering, knows that entering an academic field of higher mathematics and advanced science as an adult must have been daunting for Schafler. “I respect him tremendously for taking on such a big challenge,” Bookout said. “He could have chosen something less taxing than engineering, but he was determined to do his best.”

Schafler received the annual Outstanding Student Award for 2013, the highest award given to any graduate of East Central College, at the 43rd annual spring commencement held on May 18. SLATE extends our congratulations to him, the faculty and staff of East Central College, and everyone involved in Graduate! St. Louis who gives adult learners like Jay a second career.



THE ST. LOUIS WIB’S VICE-CHAIR CLIMBED THE CORPORATE LADDER WITH AN EARLY BOOST FROM SLATE

June of 1996 brought unexpected changes to **Pat Coleman’s** life and career. After being laid off from her job as a Personnel Manager, she proceeded to create her own Human Resources company. She was hired as an HR Consultant by Behavioral Health Response, Inc., (BHR), before the end of that year. This career change culminated in December of 2012 with Coleman’s promotion as BHR’s newest President and CEO; simultaneously, she was elected Vice-Chair of the St. Louis Workforce Investment Board (WIB).

Coleman’s rise to ultimate career success was made possible with the help of SLATE. She is the first to admit that in the mid 1990s, the first time in her life without employment, she was without access to a home computer and had difficulty accessing the job market. She turned to SLATE for help and after attending career preparation programs, Pat updated her resume, refreshed her interviewing skills, and perhaps most importantly, obtained no-cost access to computers. “It was just nice to have such an open door to these services, especially when it’s your first experience with being without a job,” Coleman recalls.

Coleman stated that it was that access to services that gave her a

“SLATE is a hidden secret in helping professionals find work.” -Pat Coleman

moment to think about what she wanted to do with her career. “I decided to start my own HR consulting business,” said Coleman.

BHR provides expert behavioral health, crisis response and corporate feedback services 24/7 to companies worldwide. Over the past 16 years working at BHR as a full-time employee and learning various aspects of the business, Coleman was able to advance to the very highest level. She continued to stay in touch with SLATE and in June of 2001 she joined the St. Louis Workforce Investment Board (WIB). “I bring my expertise in Human Resources to the Board,” says Coleman. “I’m always volunteering to do anything that’s dealing with workforce development, re-training, resume writing, helping people to look for jobs.”

As President and CEO of BHR, Coleman continues to support SLATE and its workforce initiatives with the local business community. “SLATE has a very good reputation with the companies it works with. I still believe [SLATE] is a hidden secret in helping professionals find work.” Besides serving on the St. Louis WIB, Coleman is also a member of the Diversity Awareness Partnership Advisory Council and was a prior executive member of the local chapter of the National Association of African Americans in Human Resources (NAAHR). Most recently, she became a member of the Mental Health America of Eastern Missouri Board and is an active member of the Mercy Seat Missionary Baptist Church. In addition, Coleman is

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

A native of St. Louis, Coleman holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the Saint Louis University and an MBA from the Fontbonne College. She is also serves as a surveyor at the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services.

MERS/GOODWILL NURTURES RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN



Ira Ward began participating in the WIA Youth Program in the fall of 2010. After meeting with a Case Manager to determine his career interests, Ira was set up with a temporary work experience at Oak Park Care Center as a Dietary and Laundry Aide. Ira immediately enjoyed his work within this position. However, he initially struggled with meeting Oak Park’s work expectations

There were several instances when Ira incorrectly reported his time by claiming hours that were not actually worked. Ira’s Case Manager addressed this with him to assure that Ira learned how to accurately complete a time sheet and provided job readiness training in order to assist him with being successful in his work experience. Ira made significant improvements in his work ethic and was offered a permanent position in Housekeeping. Ira accepted this position and began working on a part-time basis on November 24, 2010.

Ira continued to perform very well at Oak Park and maintained a positive attitude, which did not go unnoticed. Soon he was promoted to a supervisory position in the Housekeeping department. Nowadays Ira is responsible for signing new youth program participants’ time sheets while continue working full-time. Ira serves as a role model to other youth - an example of what can be accomplished by hard work and perseverance.

ASSISTANT TO THE ST. LOUIS WIB TRANSITION

After over 14 years of service with SLATE, longtime Assistant to the St. Louis Workforce Investment Board Sherry Vogel officially retired on June 26, 2013. Among other tasks, Sherry was responsible for coordinating the quarterly WIB meetings, circulating reports and publications to WIB members, and preparing minutes. “SLATE really is part of my family,” she said at her farewell celebration. “I will miss all of you so much.”

As of July 1, Sherry’s duties have been successfully taken over by Susan Fulton. Susan has been with SLATE for over 12 years and is familiar with every aspect of the workforce development services we provide.