

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
MESCHERI CAREER CENTER

Michael K. Holmes, Executive Director

americanjobcenter

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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: MICHAEL K. HOLMES

Most St. Louis City residents are aware of some exciting developments that our community is currently experiencing or preparing for: Ballpark Village, the Cortex biomedical center, and nearly a billion dollars in construction work by MSD over the next two decades.

However, many of our partners, stakeholders and customers may not know that SLATE

is responsible for overseeing the terms of Ordinance 69427, established to help public works, bonded and TIF funded projects within the City of St. Louis such as these meet workforce diversity

goals. These goals (15 percent of labor hours performed by apprenticeships, 25 percent by minorities, 5 percent by women, and 20 percent by St. Louis City residents) help ensure that as these projects build and grow, so does economic opportunity for everyone, regardless of background.

Towards this goal, SLATE has established the St. Louis Construction Orientation Intake Center at our downtown location. The Center screens individuals prior to referral to an apprenticeship program or contractor, ensuring that they meet all requirements and qualifications. SLATE has also worked with union representatives to hold information sessions on a variety of building trades; the response has been overwhelming and every one of our dozen sessions has been fully attended. Our efforts are bearing fruit: last fiscal year **390** referrals were made to contractors and



106 were placed into employment. Minorities represented 95 percent of these placements and for the first time, 3 percent were women.

No nation, state or city can truly thrive unless prosperity is broadly shared. To this end, SLATE will continue to promote the goals of Ordinance 69427 and create a “growing, diverse and skilled workforce that will meet the needs of expansion and development for our region.”

UAW-LETC PROVIDES SERVICES FOR AUTOMOTIVE WORKERS



For a number of years, SLATE has worked closely with the United Auto Workers (UAW) Labor Employment and Training Corporation (LETC), a non-profit organization affiliated with the UAW International Union. LETC trains over **2,000** students each year through the Job Corps Advanced Automotive Training Program, but also uses their strong connections throughout the manufacturing sector to assist with recruitment and job placement of young men and women into a wide variety of fields.

Currently, three UAW-LETC staff members work at SLATE’s Downtown Career Center location: **Carol Johnson, Sally Sowards** and **Judy Taylor**. They help customers in our AEL (formerly the GED Resource Lab), administer



computer skills assessments so jobseekers are placed in appropriate workshops, and assist with online job searches. They are currently very involved in the recruitment effort by the General Motors plant in Wentzville, which has announced the addition of two new production lines this year, and spend a portion of their time each week at the GM facility.

Nick Robinson, Assistant to the President at UAW-LETC, commented on the relationship between the two organizations, “The partnership between the SLATE Missouri Career Center and UAW-LETC has proved invaluable to unemployed workers in St. Louis and the surrounding areas.”

UAW’s close partnership with SLATE and other Missouri Career Centers was initiated five years ago when the U.S. Department of Labor awarded a grant to the St. Louis Area Green Energy Partnership Training Program. A joint effort between workforce development agencies, community colleges, General Motors, Chrysler and Ford, the Program served over **1,000** total participants

with a final training completion rate of over **90** percent and an employment rate of **70** percent.

SLATE STARTS CANDIDATES’ POOL FOR IKEA OPENINGS

As IKEA prepares to open its much-anticipated home furnishings store scheduled for the fall of 2015, SLATE will be assisting them to hire additional personnel. Approximately **300** jobs will be available across various departments, including sales, logistics, customer service, food service, human resources, interior design, finance and operations, replenishment, safety and security, and many others.

Job descriptions will be posted on www.Jobs.Mo.Gov and www.IKEA-USA.com in the months ahead as the positions become available. Recruitment for the management team will begin in fall 2014.

Additionally, information sessions with IKEA representatives will be scheduled later in the year for job seekers interested in hearing more first-hand about the potential opportunities.

There are more than 350 IKEA stores in 44 countries around the world sharing a vision: “to create a better everyday life for the many people.”

A groundbreaking ceremony for IKEA’s new store in midtown St. Louis is scheduled for June 24. The project is expected to generate **\$250 million** in taxes and bring about **500** construction jobs. Updates on this exciting development will be provided in future issues of *SLATE Update* and posted to SLATE’s website, www.stlworks.com.

JOB SEEKER GETS HIRED AFTER IT CERTIFICATION AND CAREER WORKSHOPS

One of SLATE’s former customers, who requested that she remain anonymous, recently expressed gratitude for the training opportunities, career workshops, and personalized career counseling she received. WIA funds allowed ‘D.T.’ to develop new skills and secure employment.

Last year, D.T. was laid off and collecting unemployment benefits. At SLATE’s Career Center, she recognized she needed to update her skills and discovered that funds were available to help her enroll in professional training. These steps would allow D.T. to become a viable contender in the growing field of Information Technology (IT). After SLATE helped her

enroll, she successfully completed coursework for ITIL (Information Technology Infrastructure Library) and PMP (Project Management Professional) Certifications.

In addition to training, she also benefited from a resume writing workshop and job search assistance, including online applications and counseling. “In my opinion, training is the best resource SLATE can offer the unemployed,” she said. “SLATE is not only giving [customers] a fish, they are teaching us how to fish with career training and counseling.”

In October 2013, D.T. was hired as a contractor with the Department of Defense (DoD), and then became a permanent employee in April of this year. “I feel like I am able to contribute and give back to both my employer and my country,” she said. “I appreciate

the opportunity and don’t take anything for granted. I continue to take advantage of the training you [SLATE] afforded me,” D.T. said.

She complimented SLATE’s staff for being courteous and very helpful: “You guys came to my heart and mind...Thank you for doing such a wonderful job by not only helping me with training but probably hundreds more...Whenever I count my blessings you are always included.”

D.T. remains gainfully employed with DoD. “They [SLATE] not only assisted me with the resources to get another job but with training and education that gave me the confidence to succeed in a specialized job and continue to care for my family,” she said.

Special thanks to Wanda Summers and Tom Smith at SLATE for helping D.T. on her journey and providing information for this story.





YOUTH GET READY FOR SUMMER JOBS

▲ SLATE's Youth Services Manager Alice Prince (*center*) pictured with youth who just finished their three-day job readiness training and began working in City of St. Louis Parks as part of the SPYC Summer Jobs program. A total of **100** young St. Louisans will receive paychecks this summer through the program.

BALLPARK VILLAGE STILL IN NEED OF HOSPITALITY PERSONNEL

Ballpark Village continues to hire hospitality workers for their restaurants. Jobs are now being posted on Jobs at Ballpark Village web site at www.careers-live.icims.com. To apply, interested individuals must submit their applications via the above website. If they need assistance with online applications, they are invited to visit SLATE's Career Center.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **June 25:** Bonding for W/MBE.
- **July 15:** Andy Frain Security Job Fair.
- **July 16:** RGIS Recruiting.
- **July 25:** Employment Contracts for Small Businesses.
- **July 30:** Starting a Business in Missouri.

To register and for more details, please visit www.stlworks.com.



SLATE ASSISTS LACY CLAY 2014 CONGRESSIONAL JOB FAIR

▲ Congressman Lacy Clay shakes hands with SLATE's Business Developer, Ken Riddick, at the 9th Annual Job Fair at Harris Stowe University on June 2, 2014. Hugely popular, this year's job fair was attended by more than **100** local businesses and over **5,000** job seekers.