

SLATE Update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. LOUIS AGENCY ON TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT



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

April 2013 Issue

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1 Services for Professionals
- 2 WIB Member Introduction
- 2 Hostess Layoff
- 3 Lord & Taylor Recruitment

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.

BOUNCEBACK PROGRAM HELPS PROFESSIONALS RE-ENTER WORKFORCE

Since October 2012, when the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE) re-established the *BounceBack Professional Network*, several hundred participants have attended workshops, conversations and individualized mentor programs. BounceBack is designed to assist adult job-seekers, especially dislocated

workers and the long-term unemployed, with specific advice dealing with targeted job searches, transitioning to new fields, resume development, internet jobseeker resources, and Q&A sessions with representatives of industries that are currently hiring. The workshops, offered on a weekly basis, are free although reservations are required.

The delivery of BounceBack sessions is managed by **InnovateU**, a career development and coaching firm. BounceBack staff always



Participants of BounceBack Nitty Gritty Workshop networking at the January 2013 event.

“I really do believe [the job offer] was due to the resume you helped me with.”

-Rodney McGrew, BounceBack participant

make an effort to stay in touch with jobseekers after they participate, and in January received their first confirmed success. John Simmons, who had previously been struggling to find substantial work, started with VSP Construction Company. In an email, he expressed his thanks to workshop facilitators *Frank Danzo* and *Cathleen Slone*, and stated “I really do believe [the job offer] was due to the resume you helped me with.”

Recently, another ecstatic email was received from BounceBack participant Rodney McGrew, who was offered a Business Development position supervising vertical markets for Universal Mulch Company, which recycles tires and other products. “It happened too fast... All I can say is thank you,” he wrote. “I told sales stories in the interview and other pertinent information I found very helpful and valuable in your [BounceBack] material.” As an increasing number of participants apply the lessons learned, BounceBack anticipates many more such positive results.

More information on Bounceback, including a schedule of upcoming events, can be found on SLATE’s webpage, www.stlworks.com, under the heading *Help for Jobseekers*.

CITY OF ST. LOUIS WIB WELCOMES NEW MEMBER



The St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE) is proud to welcome the newest member of the St. Louis Workforce Investment Board (WIB), Robert J. Wasserman. Wasserman was sworn in this past March and has told SLATE he looks forward to helping our city grow and prosper.

Wasserman is currently Senior Vice President for Tax Credit Investments for the US Bank Community Development Corporation. He began his career acquiring, underwriting, closing, and syndicating Low-Income Housing and Historic tax credit transactions, helping investors nationwide to meet their financial needs and fulfill a range of social and environmental goals.

Prior to his current role with US Bank, Wasserman was Managing Director of Tax Credit Syndications and also managed their West Coast office for originations and acquisitions of New Markets and Solar tax credits. He has an active interest in veterans’ issues and charter school development, and sits on the board of KIPP Inspire Academy, a top performing school that serves every zip code in St. Louis City. Wasserman holds a Juris Doctorate from the UCLA School of Law and a Masters in Business Administration from the Anderson School of Business at UCLA.

SLATE TO HELP DISLOCATED HOSTESS WORKERS

SLATE Missouri Career Centers, a service provided by the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE) announces over \$1.2 million immediately available to assist workers throughout Missouri affected by the closure of Hostess Brands, Inc.

In March, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) awarded a National Emergency Grant (NEG) to the Missouri Division of Workforce Development to supplement funds available under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. Jobseekers formerly employed by Hostess Brands are now eligible



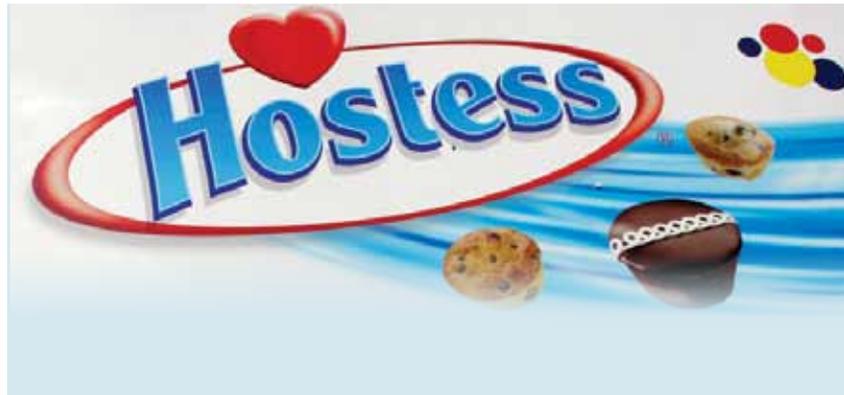
for training reimbursement and supportive services such as transportation assistance and emergency aid in addition to the career guidance, workshops and other Missouri Career Center services available at no cost.

Eligible individuals can contact SLATE's Downtown location at (314) 589-8000 or the Central West End location at (314) 877-0916 for more information. City of St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay states, "SLATE has the staff and resources to help anyone formerly employed with Hostess. I encourage them to take advantage of this opportunity."

DOL approved a total NEG amount of \$2,183,749 depending on the state's continued need for assistance. These funds will help serve workers at 39 sites in Missouri and Missouri residents who were employed at worksites in Kansas and Oklahoma. The St. Louis area (St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and Franklin/Jefferson counties) is home to an estimated 435 workers eligible for assistance from both the TAA and the NEG.

The closing of Hostess Brands laid off an estimated 18,000 workers from 864 company locations in 48 states. Federal, state and local agencies nationwide are acting to ensure those affected are able to reskill and rapidly find new employment.

*"The event was successful because of a great process."
-Janis Leigh, DVP of Human Resources at Hudson's Bay*



SLATE PROVIDES CANDIDATES FOR IT DELIVERY CENTER

Hudson's Bay Company (HBC), operator of Lord & Taylor department stores, recently made the decision to consolidate and relocate its IT Delivery Center to St. Louis City. They heard about SLATE and the no-cost services we provide through conversations with the Board of Aldermen and other City officials.

On March 19, Lord & Taylor senior management worked closely with SLATE's Business Development department on-site at the City Hall West Missouri Career Center. Throughout the day, nearly 60 candidates for approximately 40 open positions were pre-screened by SLATE staff on behalf of HBC. As a result, 30 candidates were interviewed, many of whom are being seriously considered for full-time positions.

"The event was successful because of a great process," Janis Leigh, DVP of Human Resources at Hudson's Bay, told us. "The SLATE team offered incredible support to our HBC team and this showed in the quality of the pre-screened candidates and the easy flow... thank you so much!" Both organizations are hoping to partner together again on similar events later this year.

HBC stated that operating costs, state and local incentives and the quality of the IT talent pool were key factors in the final decision to relocate their IT Delivery Center to the City of St. Louis. Founded in 1670 and the longest continually operated company in North America, HBC is headquartered in Canada. They own over 50 stores and outlet locations in the United States, primarily in the northeast, but increasingly in the Midwest.

Their recent decision to relocate, along with other employers such as Unisys, is helping to maintain the St. Louis community's reputation as a leading destination for information technology-based services.

SLATE'S HOT JOBS LISTING CONTRIBUTES TO NGCC

Originally designed to increase the number of staff referrals of job orders, SLATE's weekly *Hot Jobs* listing has quickly become an integral part of the overall workforce development strategy in St. Louis City. The listing has greatly benefitted the public and is invaluable to elected officials, helping them track economic opportunities for their constituents. Local media often use *Hot Jobs* to learn about new and expanding companies. Community-based organizations rely on *Hot Jobs* to match candidates and make referrals. New customer traffic, looking for specific jobs, has been driven to Career Centers. *Hot Jobs* is a valuable part of SLATE's service package, and has captured the interest of other workforce regions.



MORTGAGE RELIEF FOR UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMANTS AND UNEMPLOYED WORKERS AT MISSOURI CAREER CENTERS

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Treasury entrusted local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) with promoting mortgage relief programs to unemployed workers and help them avoid losing their homes. While an unprecedented amount of housing recovery programs have been developed and thousands of unemployed borrowers have used them to reduce or suspend their mortgage payments, many more have never heard of these programs or don't know they are eligible for relief.

Families in need of mortgage assistance, especially those interested in modifying their mortgages to avoid foreclosure will greatly benefit from the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and the Making Home Affordable (MHA) programs. In addition, two federal programs – FHA's special unemployment forbearance and MHA's Home Affordable Unemployment Program (UP) - allow qualifying

homeowners to reduce or suspend mortgage payments for 12 months or more. Lastly, the Administration's Hardest Hit Fund (HHF) provides billions more in aid for homeowners in states hit hardest by the economic crisis.

The above-mentioned programs are a critical part of a broad strategy to help homeowners obtain relief and avoid foreclosure; the local workforce system, consisting of local WIBs and Career Centers, was selected to share these programs among the public and those who may benefit from them.

Missouri Career Centers were asked to share information about mortgage assistance programs with unemployed workers and UI recipients who come through their doors. Specifically, the Career Centers were requested to ask the homeownership status of their UI claimants and other customers, and connect eligible homeowners with HUD-approved housing experts at 888-995-HOPE (4673). More information on MHA programs is available at www.MakingHomeAffordable.gov and on SLATE's website, www.stlworks.com.