

PRESS RELEASE

ST. LOUIS AGENCY ON TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT
SLATE
MISSOURI CAREER CENTER

Subject: ST. LOUIS AGENCY ON TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT RECEIVES
JOB TRAINING GRANT TO DEVELOP HEALTHCARE, IT AND GREEN
INDUSTRIES WORKFORCE

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St. Louis Agency On Training And Employment (SLATE) has been awarded a grant totaling \$4,404,781 from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), to launch a regional project called "Graduate! St. Louis Consortium." The grant and subsequent program were announced by Mayor Slay, SLATE Director Michael Holmes and RCGA President Dick Fleming, today in a news conference at City Hall. The Consortium will prepare the bi-state St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) workforce to meet employer demands for qualified staff in the healthcare, information technology (IT) and emerging green industries.

This project is a unique and regional collaborative partnership between SLATE, St. Louis Community College, St. Charles Community College, Jefferson College, East Central College, Southwestern Illinois College, and the St. Louis Regional Chamber & Growth Association (RCGA). In addition to the St. Louis Workforce Investment Board (WIB), the following WIBs have endorsed and will participate in the Consortium: St. Louis County (MO), Jefferson/Franklin Counties (MO), St. Charles County (MO), and St. Clair County (IL). The WIBs will participate in an advisory capacity to share information, monitor project activities and outcomes, and provide strategic input to the Consortium leadership.

This grant will enhance area training programs, add capacity for 2,200 participants and successfully place an estimated 1,500 of the program graduates into jobs. The RCGA has identified healthcare, IT and green technology as key growth industries in the St. Louis MSA.

"This grant will allow displaced workers to learn the skills of new employer demands," said Mayor Slay. "These dollars will be infused directly into our community. This is an innovative, regional approach to better our community and strengthen our workforce."

According to the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC), healthcare demonstrates strong potential with projections to 2014 showing a net gain of tens of thousands of positions for Medical Assistants and Licensed Practical, Licensed Vocational and Registered Nurses. The demand for Physical Therapy Technicians, Occupational Therapy Technicians and Respiratory Therapists will also continue to grow. Information technology has always been important to the St. Louis MSA and has been consistently given high grades in terms of jobs potential. Many of the state's 131,103 jobs in emerging green technologies are located in the St. Louis region.

The "Graduate! St. Louis Consortium" will primarily serve laid off workers affected by the recent economic recession. Over the three year project period, the Consortium partners will increase the number of classes offered through the continuous education college system, invest in needed training equipment, hire faculty and develop a regional web portal in order to facilitate an online community of trainers and job seekers.

The ST. LOUIS AGENCY ON TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT (SLATE) is the City of St. Louis government agency that offers job seekers and businesses a variety of no-cost services related to employment, job training, and career advancement. For more information, visit SLATE online at www.stlworks.com.