



WORKFORCE FOCUS



July 2009

Volume 2

THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CENTERS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY

RIVERSIDE COUNTY WIB UPDATE BY RIC OLALDE, WIB CHAIRMAN

Just the Facts

May 2009

National Unemployment

9.4%

California Unemployment

11.5%

Riverside County

Unemployment

13.1%

San Bernardino Unemployment

12.5%

We are in the midst of one of the most difficult and challenging economic times in our Nation. There is uncertainty in the air and countless numbers of unemployed. The Riverside County unemployment rate is currently **13.1 percent**, which translates to **120,200** people out of work. Although this is the case, we have to look at the opportunities we have before us. This newsletter is an attempt to communicate the facts about our situation and the good things that we are doing in trying to assist our youth, jobseekers and business community, in gaining access to the resources so that they may enjoy infinite opportunity and lasting prosperity.

We have increased services to an average of nearly 14,000 users at our WDCs. There has also been an approximately 620 new enrollments for service per month. These figures are only those we can count.

Together, with our partners, the system provides resources, people, business, education and economic development, to compete in an increasingly globally competitive workforce.

*The Workforce Development Centers (WDC) have been very busy coordinating with contracted youth service providers in putting out the word that we have funded our **Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP)**. We have ten providers' diligently managing an anticipated volume of matching 2500 youth to jobs. You can imagine the challenge and opportunity for them. We have had a tremendous amount of interest by and for the youth. Unfortunately, there is not enough money or jobs available for all that have applied. We will continue to look for other ways to employ those that cannot be helped through the SWEP through other programs we or our partners have established. In providing our services we have reduced our participant cost by **Thirty-five Percent**, which allows us to increase those served in all of our programs.*

Riverside County Workforce Investment Board, are optimistic that the programs we have established, and are continuing to refine, will help guide the region in to the future in preparing our youth, dislocated workers, businesses and aging population with the resources to connect.

A collaboration of businesses, educators and foundations led by California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) and the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) has obtained initial funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Stephen Bechtel Fund to increase interest and participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education. The Riverside Office of Education and the WDB are working on a Business Education Coalition to decrease the high drop out rate in our high schools and improve the college going rate of those that do graduate. We are also partnering with the Green Valley Initiative for Village Empowerment to establish business and employment policies and resources in the emerging "Green Economy".

We have also been collaborating as a region with the San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board and many business groups, all of which recognize that we are one region and the most valuable resource we have are the people who live and work here. We continue to strive for employment close to home to keep the commutes to a minimum, which increases the quality of life for all of us.

If you are interested in receiving more information about any of initiatives or services, Please visit our website: www.rivcojobs.com or contact us at: **951.955.3108**

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

Best Regards,

Ric Olalde, WIB Chairman

In any challenge you will find opportunity. We, the members, partners and supporters of the

Riverside/San Bernardino Occupations with the Fastest Job Growth—May 2009

- Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts
- Computer Software Engineers, Applications
- Skin Care Specialists
- Funeral Service Workers
- Hydrologists

Jamil Dada wins the Patricia Ann Wilson Award

On June 25th, The 18th Annual General Assembly meeting on “Reinventing the Region: Reflections on Change” was hosted by the Western Riverside Council of Governments at the Morongo Casino. Patrick Buchanan, a nationally syndicated columnist and superb author of many outstanding books was the keynote speaker. To add to the awesome presentation made by Mr. Buchanan, one of our own Workforce Investment Board Members, and previous Chairman of the Board, Mr. Jamil Dada, was recognized for his outstanding community service and received the Patricia Ann Wilson Award.

The Riverside County Philharmonic Foundation in coordination with the City of Riverside and the Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce hosted the “The Patriot’s Concert” on July 4th. This event celebrated our Nation’s birthday and honored our men and women serving the Armed Forces of March Air Reserve Base and Corona Naval Surface Warfare Center. The individual selected to receive the “Citizen of the Year Award” for exhibiting outstanding citizenship and community support of the Military was, our own Jamil Dada. Congratulations to Jamil on all of his significant accomplishments!

Coming...

The Job Seeker Summit

On August 10, 2009, *The Riverside County Job Seeker Summit* is scheduled to be held at the Riverside Convention Center. The Summit is a collaborative effort between Riverside County EDA/ Workforce Development Division and Assemblyman Brian Nestande’s Office, Sixty-Fourth District. The Summit will have a variety of Workshops available with valuable cutting edge tips and innovative fundamentals for effective job search, which will assist individuals in choosing viable training and career pathways. The event will also offer an array of professional Career Development, Industry, Workforce, Economic, Networking and Educational Resources.

SBA OFFERS LOANS TO SMALL BUSINESSES

Washington—Small businesses suffering financial hardship as a result of the slow economy may be eligible to receive temporary relief to keep their doors open and get their cash flow back on track through a new loan program announced today by SBA Administrator Karen G. Mills.

Beginning June 15th, SBA will start guaranteeing America’s Recovery Capital (ARC) loans. ARC loans are deferred-payment loans of up to \$35,000 available to established, viable, for-profit small businesses that need short-term help to make their principal and interest payments on



existing qualifying debt. ARC loans are interest-free to the borrower, 100 percent guaranteed by the SBA, and have no SBA fees associated with them.

These ARC loans will provide critical capital and support small businesses to grow and create new jobs.

For more information on ARC loans visit www.sba.gov.

Did You Know?

On-the-Job Training Programs can help businesses off-set some of the costs of training a new employee and loss of productivity during the training. Businesses can receive up to 50% of a new employees wages for a maximum of 3 months.

On-the-Job Training can also assist with skills enhancement of an existing worker.

For more information, call 1.955.3100 and ask for a Business Solutions Consultant

www.rivcojobs.com



RIVERSIDE COUNTY EVENTS

Share Our Abundant Resources

Update

Over 50 business owners received value information at the Share Our Abundant Resources conference held in Rancho Mirage in May. The panel presentation and informational booths highlighted business incentives focusing on workforce. The Workforce Development Centers, Coachella Valley Economic Partnership and Citi Bank hosted the event.

State of Transformation

Our Workforce, Our Economy

The Riverside County State of Transformation Event will be held on September 10, 2009 at the Riverside Convention Center. The Event is being hosted by first District Supervisor Bob Buster, in coordination with the Riverside County EDA/ Workforce Development Division. The venue will provide a variety of pertinent Industry, Education, Professional and Workforce resources for business, that assist with improving the economic prosperity in our County.

Workforce

Center Customers

May 2009

New Enrollments

599

Returning Customers

14,369

New Trainees

725