



A Proud Member of America's Workforce Network

The Newsletter of the Delaware Workforce Investment Board
Issue 6, January 20, 2009
Hon. Jack Markell, Governor
John J. McMahon Jr., DWIB Chairman

HOPE AND COMMITMENT



During these tough times Delawareans who haven't had to visit their local Department of Labor to sign up for Unemployment, do a job search, or access other work or training related services through the public workforce system are fortunate.

Today Delaware employment statistics show there are five people searching for every single job listed.

During this time, we want everyone to know that those of us in the business of employment and workforce development are here to serve our state residents. It is critical that we step it up, turn over every stone, expend and stretch every resource to deliver services, which not only benefit Delaware job seekers and employers today, but will help our state for future opportunities.

There is much we can do.

Community and faith based organizations are working with us to deliver employment services at

their locations. If you are a community or faith based organization, you can contact us to see how you can be part of this community outreach to help those where you live. (See SHARE Story page 4)

The Delaware Workforce Investment Board and the Department of Labor are working to ensure that Dislocated Workers receive the help and resources they need during these times of mass layoffs and business closings. We want these workers to know about the employment services and training opportunities they can access through adult dislocated worker training funds.

It is our desire to develop a service delivery system that presents itself as friendly and informative to all who walk through our One-Stop doors. We want to show our job seekers how to remain marketable and competitive in a changing workforce and at the same time, show our employers we stand ready to serve them too.

We won't stop until we can deliver service in a way that meets the needs of Delaware workers in this economy.

Stay tuned.....

Gwen Jones, Executive Director

Inside: DWIB Calendars; New Access Point; DWIB/DET Action Planning

EXTRA!! EXTRA!!! DWIB Chairman Becomes DOL Designee



DWIB Chairman John McMahon was recently named by Governor Jack Markell as the designee to serve as the next Delaware Secretary of Labor. He will replace Secretary Thomas B. Sharp if confirmed by the Delaware Senate.

HERO STOPS BY ONE STOP ***Tuskegee Airman Meets Staff***



Photo by Al Barclift:
Tuskegee Airman Otis Lowerybergh
gets his picture snapped at with
DWIB Deputy Director Bill Potter.

There's no telling who might drop by a One Stop Service Center.

One day in early January, 2009 Otis Lowerybergh of Wilmington Delaware stopped by.

The thing is, Mr. Lowerybergh is an American Hero.

He is one of the original 926 Tuskegee Airmen whom flew in the segregated fighter unit during WW II.

The Tuskegee unit, according to www.redtail.org, flew over 15,000 sorties and lost very few bombers earning them "the nickname Red Tail Angels."

"It was a distinct pleasure to meet Mr. Lowerybergh," said DWIB Deputy Director Bill Potter. "His courage and perseverance are an inspiration."

Mr. Lowerybergh's affiliation with the Tuskegee unit made him an instant celebrity at the One Stop. He posed for pictures with many staff members and told stories about being a Tuskegee Airman.

DWIB Deputy Director Bill Potter is seen above with Mr. Lowerybergh



DWIB SPIFFS UP IMAGE ***New Logo Product of Website Upgrade***

Those of you used to receiving information from the Delaware Workforce Investment Board (DWIB) have probably grown used to its flag banner across the top of its website, brochures and other correspondence.

Well, that's about to change. It's out with the old and in with the new – as far as logos go anyway.

The DWIB has begun using a new logo developed by Wilmington's Jamie Dawson of Jamie Dawson Web Development and Consulting (<http://www.jamiedawson.net>).



As part of the DWIB's effort to update its website, Mr. Dawson volunteered his expertise to help after Pat Creedon, Public Relations and Outreach Chairwoman, asked him.

Though Mr. Dawson wasn't specifically asked to develop the logo it was just fell into place said, DWIB Deputy Director Bill Potter.

"We got to a point where we had most of the flow figured out for the website," Mr. Potter said. "But it just didn't have the pizzazz we wanted. The next day or two Jamie sent us this great logo, kind of as a starting point.

"It was more than a starting point. It was perfect."

ANNUAL TRAINING FUND PROPOSALS SOUGHT
Programs Needed To Help Workers Prepare For Tomorrow

The Delaware Workforce Investment Board (DWIB) recently began its Request for Proposal (RFP) process and has released its official announcement to accept requests from training providers.

This is the second year the process has kicked off in January.

It once began in November, but was changed to better fit DWIB and Delaware Department of Labor (DOL) schedules and priorities.

The RFP seeks training providers with programs many Delawareans need to improve their career skills or become competitive in today's job market.

The programs typically sought help adults and youth with significant barriers to employment by providing training and other services resulting in increased employment potential. Detailed information about the RFP, the programs needed, and the funding guidelines are available at the

**Delaware Workforce Investment Board RFP
Calendar**

Proposals Due Feb. 6, 2009

Proposal Negotiation Sessions Feb 9 – March 5, 2009

**Board Pre-funding Meeting –
March 3, 2009**

Best and Final Offer –
March 6, 2009

Proposal Presentations

March 31, 2009, Sheraton Dover Hotel

**Consolidation Meeting
April 2, 2009 Delaware Contractors Association**

**Announcement of Awards at Board Meeting -
April 7, 2009 Goodwill**

**Note: Items in red require board
participation**

DWIB website www.delawareworks.com/wib by clicking on training RFP hyperlink on the right side of the page.

There are multiple steps and deadlines throughout the process, so interested providers are encouraged to read everything carefully and ask questions.

Because the process can seem daunting, the DWIB held a pre-orientation session for new potential providers on Jan. 8 which attracted about ten new providers.

Interested individuals should contact the DWIB at 302-761-8160 for additional information.

Proposals and Best and Final Offers must be delivered to the DWIB office no later than 4 p.m.

on the scheduled dates.

No proposal is considered a complete proposal without a scheduled Proposal Development Session, as described in the RFP. Incomplete Proposals will not be considered.

Tom's Top Tips For RFP Success

- Attend the Orientation Sessions.
- Proposal Development is very important to success; make sure to spend time with staff to refine offerings.
- Presentations, while important, only provide a limited time for explanation and clarification. Best and Final Offers have a huge impact on awards – Do them right.

DWIB/DOL OPEN FIRST SHARE NETWORK ACCESS POINT
Milford Church Already Reports Heavy Traffic



Milford's Bethel AME Church houses Delaware's first SNAP. Church Pastor, Rev. Gregory P. Nelson reports that his Access Point is being used heavily by Milford and nearby residents, who can't find transportation to make it to Dover or Georgetown.

Milford residents got an early Christmas present last month when Delaware's first Sharing How Access to Resources Empowers Access Point (SNAP) opened just before the holidays at the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church.

The SNAP, at 205 NW 4th St, is staffed with church volunteers and outfitted with Dell Laptops provided by the Delaware Workforce Investment Board (DWIB) through a grant to promote labor market information.

The church and its adjoining community center will assist job seekers by providing help with resumes, job interviewing skills, and providing computer access for Internet job hunting.

The church's pastor, Rev. Gregory P. Nelson, jumped at the chance to be part of the Sharing How Access to Resources Empowers (SHARE) Network after hearing about the new initiative at a statewide ministers meeting.

"I feel that it is time for the church to become more involved in the process of assisting our parishioners and

community in seeking employment, preparing resumes, and feeling good about helping themselves to do better for themselves and their families," Reverend Nelson said.

Though Bethel AME Church was the first SNAP to open, it was followed closely by the opening of an access point at Wilmington's West End Neighborhood House just before the New Year.

Access points are planned for the Delaware Adolescent Program Inc. (DAPI), Dover's Caring Community and other sites in Kent and New Castle counties.

The program, a US DOL initiative managed by the DWIB in partnership with the Delaware Department of Labor, seeks to push self-help employment services to communities through faith based and community organizations.

SHARE has two components: an online resource directory at <http://www.sharenetwork.delaware.gov/>; and the SHARE Network Access Points (SNAP) like the one at Bethel A. M. E. Church.



From Left: Kent County Levy Court Commissioner Eric Buckson and Rev Nelson stand near the Dell Laptop computers that outfit the SNAP

SNAPS are staffed by volunteers and receive NO state funds. They do need office supplies and are seeking donations of Dell Laser Printer 1110 Toner Cartridges, paper and other office items. To help find the SNAP near you call Bill Potter at 302-761-8163 and he will put you in contact with the point of contact.

DWIB TRANSITION REPORT READIES NEW LEADERS FOR ACTION

Report Painstakingly Prepared



From L: DWIB Executive Director Gwen Jones and Executive Committee member Sandy Johnson work on transition plan details.

Members of the Delaware Workforce Investment Board's (DWIB) executive committee partnered with industry leaders and painstakingly crafted a transition report to assist Governor-Elect

Jack Markell as he begins his time in office.

The report, which includes the DWIB's recently completed strategic plan, was in the works for several months and incorporated the history, functions, and overview of the DWIB.

Executive committee member Sandy Johnson headed the effort, pulling in diverse groups to ensure the final product was comprehensive and detailed.

Like any piece of good work, the foundation was laid months earlier through a series of board development workshops conducted by Ms. Johnson. These workshops provide the initial research needed to make the transition report thorough.

DWIB/DET LEAD BRAC OFFENSIVE

Team Leads Forward With Information Initiative



Public Relations and Outreach Committee Chairwoman Pat Creedon talks to a pair of employers at the Oct. 31 BRAC conference.

The Delaware Workforce Investment Board (DWIB) and the Delaware Department of Labor, Division of Employment and Training (DOL/DET) recently showcased their respective resources at the first Delaware BRAC Business Conference held Oct. 31 at the University of Delaware's Clayton Hall,

BRAC, an acronym for Base Realignment And Closure, is a worldwide restructuring of U.S. military installations, which promises to bring several thousand jobs to Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland and its surrounding communities, including New Castle County.

The projected jobs include federal employment and small business openings.

The conference, sponsored by the Delaware

Economic Development Office (DEDO) helped businesses get an advantage by providing them with the latest "how to" information about working with the federal government.

"This is a really big deal," said DWIB Deputy Director Bill Potter. "The potential for Delaware businesses and Delaware job seekers is enormous."

The two DOL agencies set up a combined display providing detailed information about employer services, the Delaware JobLink (<https://:joblink.delaware.gov>), and job seekers services.



DET Marketing Specialist Helene Keeley talks to an employer at the Oct. 31 BRAC conference.

DWIB/DET MEET CHALLENGES HEAD ON **Planning Group Looks To Leverage Resources New Ideas**

There may be some good news on the horizon for Delaware workers if two state agencies have anything to say about it.

The Delaware Workforce Investment Board (DWIB) and the Delaware Department of Labor's Division of Employment and Training (DOLDET) are developing a comprehensive action plan to help Delaware job seekers and dislocated workers.

Though the two entities are habitual partners, the current economic situation required additional planning to ensure all available resources are being used, said DWIB Executive Director Gwen Jones

"We must put our energy into creating services that are suited to today's workers in today's economy, Ms. Jones said. "Our clients must be given the tools and the hope they need to be marketable and compete in good and bad times."

In recent months the bad times have been more prevalent than good as Delaware's unemployment rate has steadily climbed.

The most recent report from the state's Office of Occupational and Labor Market Information (OOLMI) pegs the current unemployment rate at 5.6 compared to 3.5 percent for the same period in 2007.

The numbers only tell part of the story, the long lines wrapping around the corners of the state's One Stop Service

Centers tell the other.

Local DET offices have seen an upswing in activity, said DWIB Deputy Director Bill Potter.

The additional planning started Jan. 5, 2009 and a plan should be presented to the DWIB for approval and comment by the end of the month.



SPECIAL THANKS AND WELCOME

The DWIB thanks outgoing Gov. Ruth Ann Minner and Secretary of Labor Thomas B. Sharp for their leadership and support. Whatever successes the DWIB achieved were due in large part to them. The DWIB Welcomes Gov.-elect Jack Markell to the DWIB. The board looks forward to working with the new governor as we transform our workforce to meet the employer needs of today and tomorrow.

Odds and Ends



Submitted Photo: GED students at the Fox Valley One Stop help GED instructor Mike Wilber Celebrate his 60th Birthday. The GED Program is a special partnership between the DWIB, New Castle County Vo-Tech School District and the Delaware Department of Labor



Above: Flyer from a recent SHARE Network at a recent ribbon cutting ceremony.



From Left: DWIB Executive Director Gwen Jones stands with West End Neighborhood House staff member Catherine Hoopes, Program Director Kenyetta McCurdy Byrd and West End Board President Mike Clark. The DWIB, DOL and West End Neighborhood House have teamed up to bring employment services to the community via the SHARE Network



West End Neighborhood house celebrates a recent initiative between Wal-Mart, the DWIB and JP Morgan Chase. From L: West End Staff member Hayley Schmittinger, West End student Alicia Miller, New Castle County Executive Chris Coons, West End Student Ashley Randolph, Delaware Gov. Jack Markell, West End Program Director Kenyetta McCurdy Byrd and Wal-Mart Sr. Regional Manager Rhoda Washington

IMPORTANT DATES!

New DWIB Calendar Board Meetings (Open to public)

April 7, 2009	Goodwill, Wilmington	9:30 a.m.
June 23, 2009	Modern Maturity Center, Dover	9:30 a.m.
Oct. 27, 2009	Christiana Hilton, Newark	9:30 a.m.

Executive Committee (Not open to public)

Jan. 27, 2009	Fox Valley Annex	8 a.m.
March 3, 2009	Pre-funding meeting, Delaware Contacting Association (DCA), Newark	8 a.m.
April 7, 2009	Goodwill, Wilmington	8 a.m.
May 19, 2009,	DCA,	8 a.m.
June 23, 2009,	Modern Maturity Center, Dover	8 a.m.
Sept. 8, 2009,	DCA, Newark	8 a.m.
Oct. 27, 2009	Christiana Hilton, Newark	8 a.m.

May 20, 2009 Provider Forum – Location TBD

Reports Due To Federal Government:

Oct. 1, 2009	Annual Report
1QTR 2009	State Plan

The Delaware Workforce Investment Board

Chairman of the Delaware Workforce Investment Board - John McMahon
Chair, Public Relations and Community Outreach Committee - Patricia Creedon
Chair, Proposal Review and Certification Committee – John Castle
Chair, Financial Oversight – Robert Lau
Chair, Youth Council - Dana Shreve
Chair, Performance Measures & Customer Satisfaction - Jeff Bross
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If you have any ideas for this newsletter please contact Bill Potter via email or phone.