

Oswego County Works!

A Newsletter for Oswego County's One-Stop Partners

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Partner Happenings

Best Kept Secret is a BOCES Adult Education Opportunity

Oswego County BOCES offers adults in Oswego County and surrounding areas a training site for career opportunities, but training is just the tip of the iceberg of what the Adult Education and Workforce Development Office can provide. Whether you are a displaced worker, an individual looking for career advancement or employment training, or an adult who wants to earn their GED, Oswego County BOCES can help you achieve that goal.

Many adult education programs are offered at little or no cost to students. These include free literacy assessments, GED classes, and career inventory assessments to help adults who are unsure of their career path. Oswego County BOCES will also begin offering free English as a Second Language (ESL) Literacy courses in January 2007, and they welcome referrals through county agencies or assistance programs.

Donna Donabella, recently named the Director of Adult Education and Workforce Development, implemented changes within the office to increase its efficiency and better suit the needs of students. "We've consolidated the office to house all staff in one location, and implemented procedures to insure that all areas [of adult education] are on the same page," she said. This restructuring makes it easier for students to obtain information on any program offered by the department, almost like one-stop shopping.



Starting in December, Oswego County BOCES will host Adult Education Information Sessions, the first to be held on December 12th from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and on December 14th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. After the first month, the information sessions will be hosted on the second Tuesday of each month from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and the fourth Thursday of each month from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. These sessions will include all program information including literacy, health occupations, adult and evening CTE courses, financial aid information and career interest inventory. Any interested adult is welcome to attend the session. No registration is required.

"It's part of our open-door policy," said Donabella. "If you're interested in courses, or just curious about what our program offerings are, stop in on one of those dates and we will be happy to answer your questions."

Courses run continuously and many Health Occupation offerings and Career and Technical Education classes will be available for enrollment in the spring. For more information about program offerings or information sessions, contact the Adult Education office at 963-4256.

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Oswego County Workforce New York has a full service one-stop center located in Fulton.

Career Connection Associates:

- **Career Employment Services (CES)**
- **Mexico Career Center**
- **Oswego County BOCES**
- **Oswego County Opportunities**



Did you know that our name has changed from Career Connection to Oswego County Workforce New York?

Upcoming WDB and Committee Meetings

The tentative Workforce Development Board and Committee meeting schedule for January—March 2007 is:

- January 03—Youth Council
- January 17—Business Development Committee
- January 31—Partners' Roundtable
- February 14—Evaluation & Franchise Committee
- February 28—Skills & Training Committee
- March 14—Executive Committee
- March 28—Workforce Development Board

Training and Conference Announcements

The New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals (NYATEP) is sponsoring the upcoming 2007 Youth Academy.

The 2007 Youth Academy

February 6-7, 2007

Marx Hotel, Syracuse, New York

A full agenda has not yet been developed. However, the Academy will feature workshops highlighting promising practices and strategies in the following areas:

- Working with community partners in running programs and creating a youth system
- Creating successful program design to recruit and retain youth
- Highlighting local policies/contracts between youth providers
- Working with high school drop-outs and out-of-school youth
- Engaging youth with disabilities in

- youth programs
- How to staff a youth program on a limited budget
- Implementing the Common Measures
- Achieving and exceeding WIA Performance
- Creating and updating public-relation and marketing materials
- Developing a career plan for youth practitioners
- Strategies in working with Education (elementary to post-secondary)
- Youth Council survival tips including Innovative ways to staff a Youth Council
- New strategies incorporated in Summer Programs
- Working with youth in the Criminal Justice System

Early bird registration rate is \$255 for NYATEP members and \$300 for non-members. For more information, visit www.nyatep.org.

Labor Market Snapshot

What is Labor Market Information (LMI)?

The New York State Department of Labor defines labor market information as all the facts that help to bring about a match between employers looking for workers and workers looking for jobs. The items listed below are a few examples of LMI and how it can help bring workers and jobs together:

- Information about new and expanding businesses
- Help-wanted ads and online job listings
- Information about graduates of specific education or training programs
- Resumes and resume banks

- Information about wages offered by employers for specific occupations
- Some recent Oswego County and Central New York area LMI is listed below:

- **Unemployment Rate**
 - Sept 2006—5.1%
 - Oct 2006—4.3%
- **Labor Force**
 - Sept 2006—60,500
 - Oct 2006—60,500
- **Employed**
 - Sept 2006—57,400
 - Oct 2006—57,900
- **Unemployed**
 - Sept 2006—3,100
 - Oct 2006—2,600
- **Population Estimate**
 - 118,560 (2005)
- **Mean Household Income**
 - \$50,010 (2005)

Fastest Growing Occupations

- Medical Assistant
 - Network System & Data Communications Analysts
 - Physician Assistants
 - Gaming Change Persons & Booth Cashiers
 - Physical Therapist Aides
- ### Occupations with Most Openings
- Cashiers
 - Retail Salespersons
 - Waiters/Waitresses
 - Registered Nurses
 - Office Clerks

For more labor market information, visit www.yourcareerconnection.org or factfinder.census.gov.



Taking the Stress Out of Change



The work world changes rapidly and it's up to you to adjust. Of course change is stressful, but

it needn't get the best of you. Try these strategies to help you cope with a changing work environment:

◆ **Write down the pros and cons of an impending change.** Much of what gets us worrying about change is not knowing what the change will mean. If you sit down and figure out the ramifications of the changes,

you'll be able to eliminate the fear of the unknown. List the downsides to the changes and list the potential upsides. Don't just assume the worst without looking at the positives the change has to offer.

◆ **Do your homework.** Arm yourself with information about the people you'll be working with.

◆ **Network. Network. Network.** When you find that your team is being restructured, don't wait for others to invite you to introduce yourself. Be

proactive and get to know as many of the new workers as you can. You may get a better understanding of new opportunities or expectations. Taking the initiative lets others know you're willing to adjust.

◆ **Contribute right away.** The best way to show that you're capable and flexible is to get started on projects on which you can work. Keep managers up to date on your involvement in plans or projects.

~ Adapted from *The San Diego Union-Tribune*



Many companies are now turning to training that their employees can do over the Internet. Employees can get training in management, safety and computer skills, among many other subjects, by just logging on and signing up.

Companies are finding that there are advantages to e-learning. One being that dispersed workers can all participate in the education without having to be in a certain location - this can generate a savings because no travel expenses are incurred. Companies are finding that it can be a more timely way to educate a sales force on a new product than in the past when print materials had to be produced and dispersed.

E-learning can help your staff members become better prepared to deal with work issues and more technology savvy right in front of their own screens.
~ adapted from the *San Francisco Business Times*

Goals and Accomplishments Update

Workshop Schedule: The combined workshop calendar format was revised to make it easier to read. The calendar is being distributed to all partner agencies and is also posted on the system website. Partner agencies can refer customers to any of the workshops offered—the number to call to register is listed on the calendar.

Swipe Card Installation: The system was installed at OLCES. However, as of July 2006, we made a decision to discontinue use of the system due to changes in

legislation and the common measures policy.

Website: The workshop calendar has been posted on the system website. The Partners Newsletter, the WIA plan and policies will also be available there.

Goals Update - 2006:

- Revised the workshop calendar.
- Continuing to focus on entering all jobs in the Universal Job Bank.
- Hosted an Open House at the One Stop Center to publicize and welcome new partners
- in March 2006.
- Scheduled a follow-up to the passport training—coming in February 2007.
- Working with BOCES to provide access to the OSOS system is on hold due to changes in legislation.
- Issued the Partners Newsletter.
- Continuing to work on establishing a baseline number of businesses in the workforce area to use to develop goals for increasing services to business.

Workforce Development System Website

In March of 2003, the Workforce Development System launched its website—www.yourcareerconnection.org. Since then, the site has had over 20,000 visitors. The site includes resources for jobseekers, workers,

businesses and our partners. Among the information available is:

- Labor Market Information
- Board Minutes and Resolutions
- Requests for Proposals
- Connect for Success
- newsletter
- Board and Committee Meeting Schedules
- Community Resources
- System Workshop Calendar
- Three-Year Local Plan and policies

The people who make a difference are not the ones with the credentials, but the ones with the concern.

~ Max Lucado

A Newsletter for Oswego County's One-Stop Partners

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Web: yourcareerconnection.org



We're on the web at www.yourcareerconnection.org

Workforce Development System of Oswego County

Our Mission:

To coordinate, facilitate and promote customer satisfaction and quality in the workforce development system in Oswego County.

Our Customers:

- Jobseekers and workers
- Businesses seeking a workforce

Our Work:

- Establish and oversee the local system
- Set local workforce development policy
- Designate and franchise One-Stop Career Centers
- Ensure quality of services to customers
- Evaluate performance
- Ensure that each franchise commits to quality standards

Our Partners:

- Cayuga Community College
- New York State Department of Labor
- Oswego County BOCES
- Oswego County Department of Social Services
- Oswego County Employment & Training
- Oswego County Opportunities
- Oswego Industries, Career Employment Services
- VESID

Funding Opportunities

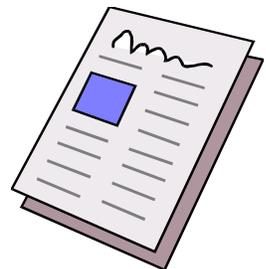
In this time of tightening budgets and declining resources, all human services and community based organizations need to be researching additional funding opportunities. The Internet is an excellent place to begin this research. Among the web sites listing grants and other funding opportunities are:

- **Workforce New York**—www.workforcenewyork.org—browse through the Funding Opportunities listed on the home page
- **FedGrants**—www.fedgrants.gov—a listing of federal funding opportunities by agency
- **The Foundation Center**—www.fdncenter.org—includes Grantseeker Tools, Online Librarian, Foundation Directory and Foundation Finder
- **Grants.gov**—www.grants.gov—this site allows organizations to electronically

find and apply for competitive grants from all Federal grant-making agencies

- **Faith-Based and Community Initiatives**—www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci—the goal of this site is to make sure that grassroots leaders can compete on an equal footing for federal dollars, receive greater private support, and face fewer bureaucratic barriers
- **New York State Funding Programs**—www.nysegov.com/citguide.cfm—contains a listing of funding programs and grants available through the State of New York

As specific funding opportunities come to our attention, we will continue to share the information with our partners.



Connect for Success, a jobseeker newsletter published monthly by Oswego County Workforce New York, is available at www.yourcareerconnection.org.