

Oswego County Works!

A Newsletter for Oswego
County's One-Stop
Partners

Volume I, Issue I
Winter 2006

Partner Happenings

Career Connection Open House

The Fulton Career Connection will be hosting an open house on Thursday, March 16, 2006 from 10:00AM – 2:00PM. The open house will be an opportunity to promote the services available through the One Stop system and to welcome our new partners. All partners are encouraged to participate in this event. For more information, please contact Judy McManus at jmcmamus@oswegocounty.com.

System Workshop Calendar

A combined workshop calendar was developed and issued in December, January and February. The calendar was distributed to all partners. The workshop committee regrouped in January to review the calendars along with feedback from partner agencies to identify workshop needs that were not being met. Soft Skills and Job Retention, Study Skills for Adults, and Accessing Financial Aid were topics identified. The committee is continuing to meet to develop strategies to provide these services. The format of the workshop calendar is also being revised to provide a more comprehensive list of the workshops available at the One Stop Center and partner and affiliate locations. The calendar will be posted at the Fulton Career Connection center and at affiliate locations. The workshop calendar can also be accessed at www.yourcareerconnection.org. To add a workshop to the calendar, please e-mail Kelley Austin at austin@oswegocounty.com.

Universal Job Bank

NYS Department of Labor (NYSDOL)

office manager, Colleen McBride, and Barbara E. McCleary, NYSDOL Employment Services Representative, recently provided One Stop Operating System (OSOS) training to partner staff and program administrators.

The training reiterated the importance of maintaining a computerized record of “system” productivity and included a technical demonstration of how pertinent information can be entered into, and accessed through, OSOS. Insight was also provided as to how partners can assist in enhancing the OSOS information available to system jobseekers, including the expansion of the job bank.

Colleen explained how partners might easily do this through regular and consistent contribution of their own organizational employment opportunities. She also described the three types of job listings that could be entered into OSOS. They are: partner organization/agency job openings; customized placements, such as on-the-job training and paid internships; and job development prospects that may go unfilled, but for which the employer has an immediate need for applicants.

Barbara provided a live demonstration of the OSOS employer, jobseeker and job bank functions, which was followed by questions from the audience, as well as discussion of additional possibilities for OSOS use by partners. For more information or to post job openings, please contact Barb at barbara.mccleary@labor.state.ny.us.

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Career Connection Center:

- **Fulton**

Career Connection Affiliates:

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



Put us to work for you

Upcoming WDB and Committee Meetings

The Workforce Development Board and Committee meeting schedule for January—March 2006 is:

- January 11—Youth Council
- January 25—Strategic Planning Committee
- February 8—Partners' Roundtable
- February 15—Evaluation & Franchise Committee
- March 1—Strategic Planning Committee
- March 23—Executive Committee
- March 29—Workforce Development Board

Training and Conference Announcements

The New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals (NYATEP) is sponsoring two upcoming training sessions.

Making Case Management Work

Practical Tools and Strategies To Achieve Program Outcomes
With Beverly O. Ford, PhD.
March 7, 2006 from 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Marx Hotel & Conference Center
Syracuse, New York

“Case Management is a change process designed to empower participants to move toward self-sufficiency. Join Beverly Ford – perhaps the best case management and counseling trainer in the nation – for this energizing, highly interactive full-day seminar that will provide you with practical tools and strategies you can use to implement effective case management with the customers you serve. This session will

focus on how to build partnerships with participants that engage them in working with you to achieve program outcomes.”

Cost is \$175 for NYATEP members and \$200 for non-members.

Economic Development & Workforce Development Best Practices Summit

March 22, 2006 from 9:00 am—4:15 pm
Desmond Hotel
Albany, New York

“This event will offer the opportunity for Workforce Development and Economic Development Professionals to join together and share promising practices and information on creating and enhancing successful local collaborations.”

Cost is \$150 for NYATEP members and \$225 for non-members.

For more information or to register for either of these sessions, visit NYATEP's website at 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 the match between employers looking for workers and workers looking for jobs. The items listed below are but a few examples of LMI and how this knowledge can help bring workers and jobs together:

- Information about new and expanding business
- 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**
 - Nov 2005—6.4%
 - Dec 2005—6.7%
- **Labor Force**
 - Nov 2005—60,600
 - Dec 2005—61,200
- **Employed**
 - Nov 2005—56,800
 - Dec 2005—57,100
- **Unemployed**
 - Nov 2005—3,900
 - Dec 2005—4,100
- **Population Estimate**
 - 123,776 (2004)
- **Per Capita Personal Income**
 - \$22,640 (2001)

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



America's One-Stop Operating System (OSOS)

America's One-Stop Operating System (OSOS) is a case management system designed to support staff by providing the ability to plan for and track customer services based on needs, not eligibility, with the main focus on employment. OSOS assists staff in managing caseloads and scheduling resources. OSOS provides tracking, accountability and reporting of all services provided via One-Stop Centers and their affiliates. The benefits of

OSOS include:

- Support of service-driven processes, rather than eligibility-driven processes, while continuing to recognize that eligibility for specific programs is required in order to obtain certain services
 - Elimination of duplicate collection and data entry of information
 - Protection of customer privacy rights while allowing for sharing of necessary information
 - Facilitation of service coordination to identify and link customers with needed services
 - Standardized collection of data required for reporting purposes
 - Empowerment of customers by providing self-service options where possible
- One of our goals is to coordinate the use of OSOS with our offsite partners and affiliates.



Even as adults, we should never stop learning. If we think that we can afford to stop learning, consider that everything we know about technology today will make up just 1% of the knowledge available 50 years from now.

Goals and Accomplishments Update

Workshop Schedule: A combined workshop calendar was developed.

Universal Job Bank: Training was held. Partners are listing job openings in the job bank.

Swipe Card Installation: The system has been installed at OI-CES and customers have been registered into the system.

Partner Newsletter: The first edition will be issued in February 2006. Partners have been solicited for any information or events they would like to include. Plans are to do a winter, spring,

summer and fall edition.

Website: The workshop calendar has been posted on the Career Connection website. The Partners Newsletter will also be available here.

Goals - Quarter I, 2006:

- Revise the workshop calendar to provide a more comprehensive schedule of the workshops available. Post the workshop calendar at the center and affiliate locations.
- Continue focus on entering all jobs in the Universal Job Bank.
- Host an Open House at the One Stop Center to publicize and welcome new partners.
- Schedule a follow-up to the passport training.
- Work with BOCES to provide access to the OSOS system.
- Issue the Partners Newsletter.
- Establish a baseline number of businesses in the workforce area to use to develop goals for increasing services to business.

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



Your Career Connection

In March of 2003, the Workforce Development System launched its new web site—www.yourcareerconnection.org. Since then, the site has had over 16,000 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—a monthly newsletter for jobseekers
 - Public Notices
 - Board and Committee Meeting Schedules
 - Events and Activities
 - Community Resources
 - And much more
- We are currently working on a Members Only section for our partners.

Training Needs Survey

In order to better assess the training needs of our partners, we will be conducting another training needs survey in the near future. The information gathered will help us to increase the training opportunities for partner staff.

A Newsletter for Oswego County's One-Stop Partners

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Email: careerconnections@oswegocounty.com
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

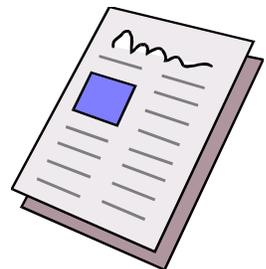
In this time of tightening budgets and declining resources, all human services and community based organizations need to be researching additional funding opportunities. The Internet is an excellent place to begin this research. Among the web sites listing grants and other funding opportunities are:

- **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 the Career Connection Center, is available at www.yourcareerconnection.org.