FEATURED THIS MONTH

PHWB Awarded Grant Fund P.1
Veterans Career Fair P.1
Career Central Cares P.1
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Labor Market Information P.2
Electronic Tax Credit Filing P.2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Congressman Gus Bilirakis’ Career Fair
December 2, 2010, 11:00 am—4:00 pm at Spartan Manor, 6121 Massachusetts Avenue, New Port Richey, Florida.

In recognition of the Thanksgiving Holiday all Career Central and PHWB locations will be closed November 25–26 and will reopen on Monday, November 29, 2010.

Please contact Steve Wilson by phone at 352-200-3027 or 352-293-1123 or by e-mail at swilson@careercentral.jobs if you have any questions or would like more information.

CHAIR’S REPORT

Mission

...enhance economic development efforts of our region by providing a well trained, high quality workforce which supports the success of local business and improves the quality of life.

DID YOU KNOW?

That 69 people were hired at job fairs and employer recruitment events held at Career Central during the first 2 weeks of November alone.

Career Central Veterans Job Fair Brings together Veterans and Employers

On Tuesday, November 16, 2010, from 10:00 am—2:00 pm at the Aripeka Elks Lodge #2520, Career Central held a Veterans Career Fair. This exciting event brought together local employers and veterans interested in civilian employment opportunities.

The employers taking part in the event had a variety of jobs available and recognized the unique and valuable skills that former members of the military can bring to the civilian workforce. Over 20 employers were in attendance, as well as over 100 veterans in search of employment.

Pasco-Hernando Workforce Board Awarded $150,000 in Grant Funds

The Pasco-Hernando Workforce Board has been selected to receive $151,061 in grant funds from a Workforce Florida, Inc. Re-employment Training program to help implement an on-the-job training (OJT), education and re-employment program for workers whose Unemployment Compensation benefits are about to, or have already expired.

Once the funding is in place, this grant will enable 45 long-term unemployed individuals to re-enter the workforce by providing short-term, job specific training, job search assistance, OJT opportunities, as well as relocation assistance for individuals with verifiable offers of employment. This program will also help benefit local employers who could receive reimbursement for up to 50% of participating trainees’ wages, depending on salary.

The PHWB anticipates starting this new program in January 2011. Anyone who would like additional information about this exciting opportunity should contact Alissa Bosworth at 352-593-2221 or abosworth@careercentral.jobs.

Through Career Central CARES, a quarterly incentive program for staff offered by the PHWB, Career Central staff are encouraged to donate their time to charitable causes throughout our community. Employees taking part in the Career Central CARES program have donated over 380 hours of time since September, worth over $7200, to various causes in our community.

There will be many more opportunities to take part in the Career Central CARES program in the coming months. If you are interested in finding out more about this program and volunteer events please contact Dave Hamilton at 352-593-2231 or dhamilton@careercentral.jobs.
A JOB WELL DONE

To: Career Central
From: Matt Millette
Regional Training Specialist
Sweetbay Supermarket

This letter is a thank you for making it possible to use the EWT grant in funding the training for Certification Classes for Registered Pharmacy Technicians. Here is a letter I received from a Sweetbay Pharmacy Specialist that I wanted to share with you.

Matt,

I’m happy to say that we are seeing great results from the Tech Certification Courses. I recently received word that Enaim Dominguez and Maria Gonzalez have both successfully passed the PTCB exam. Both Enaim and Maria are new to the pharmacy field and started the course knowing very little of the material that they would need to past the test. Another great example is Lisa White, who has been in retail pharmacy for about 3 years but came from grocery and did not have any clinical or hospital experience. Lisa White also informed me that she recently passed the test as well. Jennifer Freeman who is one of our cross-trained associates, announced today that she passed with flying colors. Thanks to the Career Central we were given excellent class instruction and much needed materials for studying. After passing the state test these students were able to secure their future as pharmacy technicians.

Personally, although I have 10 years of experience in retail and hospital pharmacy, it has been about 3 years since I have worked in a retail setting and 8 years since I worked in the hospital so I definitely needed the refresher. I was very impressed with the knowledge of the instructor, Michelle Lynch and the course material that was presented was thorough and on-point. I did feel very prepared and comfortable with taking the test and happy to say I scored 850 out of a scale of 300-900. Jenny Kantclick and Robert Morningstar have also passed. Jenny can boast a score of 865 - outstanding! Jenny was challenged by the calculations and I saw her confidence improve greatly over the four weeks when she attended the class.

On behalf of the technicians who attended the course, please give many thanks to Career Central for providing the funding to get outstanding instructors and materials needed to prepare our staff to become Certified Pharmacy Technicians.

Lindsay Tanner, RPhT/CPht
Pharmacy Operations

New E-System Saves Employers Time, Money

TALLAHASSEE – Agency for Workforce Innovation Director Cynthia R. Lorenzo announced that employers can apply for a Federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) using a new online system that can dramatically speed up the approval process.

“The Work Opportunity Tax Credit allows employers hiring workers from several target groups, including veterans and people receiving several types of public assistance, to receive from $2,400 to $9,000 in tax savings for each eligible worker added to the payroll,” said Director Lorenzo. “Our new automated system helps Florida’s employers take advantage of this valuable tax savings as they help Floridians get back to work, a win-win for businesses, families and communities.”

The electronic WOTC application process saves employers time and money by eliminating the need to mail paper copies of applications to AWI. Employers are notified via email if their application is accepted or if additional information is needed, and can monitor their applications’ progress on the agency’s website at www.floridajobs.org. A new video explaining the e-WOTC process is available on the agency’s website, www.floridajobs.org, under “Quick Links – How-to Videos.” More information on WOTC, including eligibility requirements and Frequently Asked Questions, is available online at www.floridajobs.org/workforce/wotc.html.

Labor Market Information

September 2010 Unemployment Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>October 2010</th>
<th>September 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hernando County</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasco County</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tampa Metro</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These statistics were obtained from the Florida Agency For Workforce Innovation and are not seasonally adjusted.

More Workers are Voluntarily Leaving Their Jobs

On November 9, 2010, the Bureau Of Labor Statistics released its Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey for the month of September 2010. This report shows the overall trends in the national job market by looking at indicators such as new hires, unfilled open positions, and the voluntary and involuntary separation rate.

One unexpected trend revealed by this month’s report was an increase in the level of people who voluntarily left employment or “quit.” Approximately 1.8 million people were fired or laid off while 2.0 million voluntarily left employment. This indicator can serve as a measure of workers’ willingness or ability to change jobs and could be a culmination of many factors. In an article published November 16, 2010 on Life Inc, a section of the NBC Today website, (http://lifeinc.todayshow.com/) Senior Business Writer Allison Linn comments:

The fact that more people are leaving jobs voluntarily than a year ago could be a sign that workers are starting to feel like they can move on to greener pastures. That shouldn’t come as a surprise. The recession has left many workers feeling overworked, underpaid and anxious to seek new work.

While this change could be related to many factors, it definitely shows that workers are feeling more positive about the ability to find new employment even when, as Ms. Linn points out, “there are 5 people unemployed for each open position.” This may also signal a shift in the current employment market where employees may no longer be willing to take “any job at any price.” At the very least it is a trend that both employers and job hunters may want to watch.

More information from the Bureau Of Labor Statistics’ Openings and Labor Turnover Survey can be found online at http://www.bls.gov/news.release/jolts.htm

More Workers are Voluntarily Leaving Their Jobs