

WorkNet Pinellas Chairman's Report

March 2005

March 17th



Employment Statistics Pinellas County January 2005*

2,710 Initial Unemployment Compensation Claims

↑ Up 25% from December 2004

↑ Up 7% from January 2004

Unemployment Rate

- 4.4% Pinellas County, Jan. 2005
- 4.4% MSA, Jan. 2005
- 4.4% Florida, Jan. 2005
- 5.7% U.S., Jan. 2005

Source: Agency for Workforce Innovation;
Numbers Not Seasonally Adjusted

*Beginning in Jan. '05, new geographic definitions for some metro areas in the state were introduced. Labor force & unemployment estimates for states have incorporated improved regression models & will now sum to the national estimates each month.

Florida Civilian Labor Force
8,508,000

Employed Floridians
8,141,000

Unemployed Floridians
368,000

Job Growth
Tampa-St. Pete-Clearwater MSA
+37,000 new jobs in Jan. 2005
(Professional & Business Services
sector had single most job gains)
(2nd most job gains in the State)

President Bush Supports Job Training Improvement Act of 2005

The Bush Administration supports House passage of H.R. 27, the Job Training Improvement Act of 2005. The legislation would reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), promote economic development, and better equip workers for success in the 21st century economy.

The Administration appreciates the bill's inclusion of key reforms that are essential to improving WIA's effectiveness, such as: (1) consolidating and improving programs for adults; (2) strengthening accountability for results; (3) enhancing the one-stop delivery system; (4) creating more effective State and local workforce investment boards; and (5) limiting administrative costs, which would free resources and allow more workers to be trained. The Administration also appreciates the bill's authorization of the President's Community-Based Job Training Grants and Personal Reemployment Account initiatives and encourages the Congress to authorize full funding for the Community-Based Job Training Grants at the President's requested level.

The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress to incorporate the President's "WIA Plus" reforms in the final bill. These reforms would provide crucial flexibility by consolidating all four major Labor Department State grant programs and allowing Governors to supplement this consolidated grant with their State's resources from a menu of several other Federal training and employment programs. In exchange for more flexibility, the proposal would establish increasingly rigorous performance standards each year, leading to a goal in the tenth year that States place in employment 100 percent of workers trained with grant resources.

PARTNERS in ACTION

WorkNet Pinellas is proud to be partners in three special grants offering employment opportunities to the community residents of Pinellas County.

SUPERVets Grant

This program offers On the Job Training Opportunities to Pinellas County Veterans seeking employment but maybe lacking the necessary skills for our particular labor market in order to become employed. This program will sponsor eligible participants to train for the position into which they are to be hired, while receiving a paycheck. There are special incentives that are offered to the employer to encourage their participation in the program.

Faith-Based & Community Based Grant

Catholic Charities was awarded a grant to help a specific population of Pinellas residents in securing employment. Specifically, Catholic Charities and WorkNet Pinellas are partnering together to help our citizens who are less fortunate, homeless and have barriers to becoming employed. The grant provides job search assistance by providing the necessary tools and referrals to facilitate attainment of employment goals. Kinfolks, Dream Center and PERC are sub grantees in this project and are providing these services.

Senior Employment Program

The Senior Employment Program enjoyed a dramatic turnout of individuals over 55 years of age seeking employment at the Bright House Informational Meeting. Approximately 80 candidates attended the informational meeting that provided specific employment opportunity information, as well as hours of operation, an explanation of their benefits package, and a tour of new Bright House facility located at 700 Carillon Parkway. Candidates were very enthusiastic about the information they received and readily completed their job applications. Bright House is a participating employer in the Senior's On-the-Job Training Program offered by WorkNet Pinellas.

Business Services Department Setting Record Pace

Business Services continues to add new employer accounts at a record pace. As of the end of December, the Department of Revenue records showed the number of Pinellas County employers who have added personnel is up 14% from last year. However, as a result of the hard work of WorkNet's Account Managers Sandi Clay (Gandy One Stop), James Martin (St. Petersburg One Stop), Janelle Strange (Gulf-to-Bay One Stop) and Roy Roggensack (Tarpon Springs One Stop); new employer accounts are up 44% from the same time period of a year ago.

"It's been just a tremendous effort by staff" states, Garry Burlingame, Business Services Director. "Our account managers have been making a significant number of cold calls in addition to significant networking throughout the county. Since July, we've averaged **256** new employer accounts each month. Also, I'd be remiss if I did not praise the rest of WorkNet's dedicated staff as well. Their ability to quickly source qualified candidates and make quality referrals is what keeps new and existing accounts coming back when they have additional needs."

WorkNet To Host Incentives Seminar: Financial Benefits for Businesses

WorkNet will be hosting a FREE Financial Incentives Seminar to help businesses reduce their operating costs. State & local spokespersons will simplify Federal/State tax credits, manufacturing sales tax exemptions, Workers Compensation savings & more. To streamline access to these financial benefits, each attendee will receive a user-friendly "Financial Incentives Kit".

Seating is limited to the first 50 respondents. The seminar will be held **March 24th** from **10:00 AM-11:45 AM** at WorkNet's Administrative Office located at 4525 140th Ave. N., Ste. 906, Clearwater, FL 33762. For reservations please contact Kristin Dailey at (727) 507-4300 ext. 3004.

What is being said about WorkNet Pinellas

"I wanted to email you and tell you what a fabulous job Sandi Clay, Account Manager, did at the Titan Cruise Lines, Board of Directors meeting last Friday, February 25th. Sandi and I have had the pleasure of working together over the past year with the employment needs of Titan Cruise Lines and she has proven time and time again to be a valuable asset not only to WorkNet, but to myself and my organization as well.

Sandi informed my Board of Directors as to the services WorkNet offers and handled herself in a professional and delightful manner. Thank you for allowing Sandi the time to do the presentation, and I look forward to continuing to work with your staff."

Paula A. Patterson
Director Human Resources
Titan Cruise Lines

"I just wanted to take a few minutes of my morning to personally express my appreciation for members of your staff that have worked tirelessly on projects to make Florida's Welfare Transition program better.

Don Shepherd and Karla Conway, as well as other members of their team, have been a great asset to me and have provided insightful information and much needed perspective to ensure the needs of program managers and front line staff are taken into consideration during decision making processes."

Erica A. Mott
Government Operations Consultant II
Agency for Workforce Innovation

Dates to Remember

- March 14, 11:30 AM
Silver Hat Awards Meeting
WorkNet Board Room
- March 16, 11:45 AM
Executive Board Meeting
WorkNet Board Room
- March 24, 10:00 AM - 11:45 AM
Financial Incentives Seminar
WorkNet Board Room
- March 29, 9:00 AM
Finance Committee Meeting
WorkNet Board Room
- March 30, 11:45 AM
First/First Committee Meeting
WorkNet Board Room
- April 5, 9:00 AM
High/High Committee Meeting
WorkNet Board Room
- **May 4, 11:45 AM**
Executive Board Meeting
WorkNet Board Room

Congratulations on 30 Years of Service to Workforce Development!

Currently working with WorkNet's Administrative Office as a Business Assistance Consultant, Wayne Feuer began his career with the Agency for Workforce Innovation as an employment counselor in 1975. Wayne has worked in every facet of workforce services, and has been successful in forging vital and lasting partnerships with employers and community organizations throughout Tampa Bay. Wayne was also instrumental in the successful migration of the local unemployment compensation division into the Job Service Program. He has organized large events for employers, including seminars on workforce issues and the renowned "Silver Hat Awards" program and volunteers his time to support the Boy Scouts of America and Paint Your Heart Out.



Helen Williams began her career with the Agency for Workforce Innovation in early 1975, spending 26 of her 30 years working with unemployment services. She is considered one of the local experts in the field. Helen is now working as a Customer Service Specialist assisting with registering applicants, interviewing candidates for job placement, and helping to prepare resumes. She has earned the position of Unit Lead at the Gulf-to-Bay One Stop Center in Clearwater. Helen is a very valuable member of the WorkNet team and is highly respected by her peers and supervisors.



After 30 years of service to the State of Florida, WorkNet honors their commitment to workforce and the community. Congratulations!