

# WorkNet Pinellas Chairman's Report

January 2005



## Employment Statistics Pinellas County November 2004

### 2,276 Initial Unemployment Compensation Claims

- ↓ Down 15% from October 2004
- ↓ Down 12% from November 2003

### Unemployment Rate

- 3.6% Pinellas County, Nov. 2004  
**No change from Oct. '04**
- 3.5% MSA, Nov. 2004  
**No change from Oct. '04**
- 4.3% Florida, Nov. 2004
- 5.2% U.S., Nov. 2004

Source: Agency for Workforce Innovation;  
Numbers Not Seasonally Adjusted

The unemployment rate for November of 2003 was .7 percentage points higher than that of this year, at 4.2%.

**Florida Civilian Labor Force**  
8,466,000

**Employed Floridians**  
8,100,000

**Unemployed Floridians**  
365,000

**Job Growth**  
**Tampa-St. Pete-Clearwater MSA**  
+25,600 new jobs in November  
2004  
**(Most job gains in the State)**

## U.S. Department of Labor Awards WorkNet Pinellas \$321,000 to Support Careers of Returning Veterans

WorkNet Pinellas announced today that it received \$321,000 from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to establish a concentrated training and employment program that will support and expedite the transition of veterans returning from active duty back into the civilian workforce.

Dubbed *SUPERVets* (Skills Upgrade Program for Employment Retention of Veterans), the program has been designed to provide on-the-job training and support services for 100 Pinellas County veterans. Special emphasis has been placed on helping veterans obtain needed certifications to work in professions where they already have applicable skills and experience but lack the state or locally required professional credentials to work in the field.

The grant will be used to support employers who commit to hiring and training recently returned veterans, many of whom will be Reserve and National Guard troops. Up to \$3,000 may be reimbursed to the employer per program participant for training, wages and fringe benefits from January through June of 2005. The funds will also cover incidental expenses of the veteran to include uniforms, safety equipment and costs of certification.

"The SUPERVets initiative will be of great value to our veterans and business community in many ways," says Dana Rautio, SUPERVets Coordinator for WorkNet Pinellas. "It will provide local businesses with employees who have great potential to fill critical positions. It will help reduce the gap between the number of Veterans seeking employment and the number of those being hired. But most importantly, it recognizes the dedication and sacrifice of our military service members who *have given their time during the prime of their productive years.*"

SUPERVets exists as part of the Veterans Workforce Investment Program (VWIP) authorized under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 and is in alignment with the President's "Hire Vets First" campaign. The initiative will be supplemented by \$200,000 appropriated from the Omnibus Appropriations Bill passed by Congress in November, through the efforts of Congressman C.W. "Bill" Young to serve the employment needs of veterans of Pinellas County.

**WorkNet is actively seeking Pinellas County businesses who have open job opportunities and who can provide for skills upgrade or certification training, either on-the-job or offsite.** For additional information, please contact Dana Rautio at (727) 524-4344 or [drautio@worknetpinellas.org](mailto:drautio@worknetpinellas.org).

## Statewide "One Stop" Information System Rolls Out

The One Stop Management Information System (OSMIS) came on-line December 6, 2004 after a long awaited roll-out. The web-based enhanced system has since replaced the Wagner-Peyser Online Data Display System (ODDS), the state's mainframe tracking application. Co-sponsored by the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) and Workforce Florida, Inc. (WFI), OSMIS is designed to maximize public access to data, focus on self-service, provide a "single point of entry" and replace state-based legacy systems and all standalone Regional Workforce Board systems. The legacy systems, because of their lack of integration, proved difficult to manage due to duplicate collection of demographic data, different formats for collecting data, and barriers in exchanging information between systems.

The objective of the OSMIS System is to increase the efficiency, ensure an effective operation and facilitate management of the workforce development system for service providers, participants, program and agency management and legislature across the State of Florida. OSMIS addresses the on-line needs of thousands of job seekers searching for employment and training opportunities, provides services to employers and businesses, functions as a case management tool and tracks and monitors approximately 20 Federal/State programs and their budgets for performance evaluation, and accountability. OSMIS is a simple and powerful web-based delivery system accessible to anyone through the Internet. As with any new application, there are still some bumps and glitches occurring as the state works through tuning and debugging the OSMIS application. WorkNet staff, however, is on hand to assist.

## "Job Power Seminar" Proven Advantageous

WorkNet Pinellas' newest seminar titled the "Job Power Seminar" continues to prove helpful for job seekers looking to better their career skills. An average of 150 customers attend the meetings each week. The two-hour class covers changes in employment transition over the last ten years and how to adapt to such changes. Topics include interviewing as a skill, being creative in your work search, how to make your transition into your next job a little easier and the hiring characteristics employers are looking for. Customers are also given the opportunity to speak with WorkNet Pinellas Business Services Representatives about help with contacting employers and updating their resumes.



## Monster Ideas & Smart Strategies with Dali

WorkNet Pinellas, the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and Humana will be the partnering sponsors of the Monster Ideas & Smart Strategies breakfast scheduled for February 16, 2005. The event will target employers and focus on the strategies of how to run a business. It will be held at the Salvador Dali museum in St. Petersburg and will be by invitation only.

### Dates to Remember

- January 12, 9:00 AM  
First/First Committee Meeting  
Board Room
- January 13, 9:00 AM  
Better/Better Committee Meeting  
Board Room
- January 18, 9:00 AM  
High/High Committee Meeting  
Board Room
- January 25, 9:00 AM  
Finance Committee Meeting  
Board Room
- January 26, 9:00 AM  
One Stop Committee Meeting  
Board Room
- February 2, 10:30 AM  
Legislative & PR Committee Meeting  
Board Room
- February 2, 11:45 AM  
Executive Board Meeting  
Board Room
- March 2 - 5  
National Workforce Development  
Board (NAWDB) Conference  
Washington, DC

## Exceeding Expectations

"I wanted to take this time to thank you and your staff for a job well done. Everyone was very professional and genuinely helpful.

I had a very pleasant experience from beginning to end. The quality of candidates I interviewed at your location has improved quite a bit. I felt that I was sent qualified candidates and because of that I am happy to report that I was able to offer 12 employees jobs. My jobs were posted prominently and flyers were handy for all those that were interested.

My overall experience exceeded my expectations as I was very pleased to hear that the counselors actually took the time to call on some of their candidates where they felt would qualify for my advertised position. I look forward to recruiting at your facility again. Keep up the good work.

Thank you,

Diana Englehart  
Area Manager  
Columbia Staffing

## Customer Satisfaction

"I was glad I was profiled by the state to receive your orientation seminar. It reinforced what I need to do with my job search plan...you provided unique ideas about being creative and presenting different to a prospective employer. Most important: you were real. I plan to utilize WorkNet's interview seminars. From a 20 year professional—I offer a thank you for a job well done."

- Paul Boraske

"I attended your seminar in August and spoke with you afterwards about a second interview I had coming up. I want to thank you for the pointers. They were very helpful. I got the job...I will be working for Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services. My salary is almost \$10,000 more than I earned before. How about that!!! It was particularly helpful that you told me to smile when I talk, do deep breathing before the interview and think positive thoughts before retiring the night before the interview. Thanks so much. You really helped."

- Rolanda Cole

## Former Southeast Airlines Pilot Utilizing Retraining Services

Epitomizing the essence of our business, WorkNet Pinellas is assisting a former Southeast Airlines pilot to reenter the workforce through retraining services following the Southeast Airlines shut down. Mr. Bob Petrasek has received provisional approval from a local training institution to earn a Cessna Citation Business Jet Certification. Tuition for this highly intensive, one-week training program totals \$11,500, but due to Mr. Petrasek's qualifications, WorkNet may contribute \$7,500 for tuition, books and other related fees, contingent on final eligibility. Upon completion of the program, Mr. Petrasek anticipates being hired by the training institution as a Cessna Citation Simulator Instructor, earning a wage equal or better to that of his previous Southeast Airlines salary.

### Performance at a Glance

	2003	2004	Percentage of Change
November (cumulative) Applicant Registrations	32,820	24,656	(-)24.9%
Placements	9,473	8,509	(-)10.2%
Wage at Placement	\$10.18	\$9.26	(-)9.0%
Employers Served	1,124	1,542	+37.2%
Percentage of Openings Filled	51.90%	40.46%	(-)22.0%

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

