
Atlanta Regional



Connecting Talent with Opportunity

ARWDB Meeting and Recognition of WIOA Customers & Business Partners

Thursday, December 1, 2016
Maggiano's Buckhead

Atlanta Regional Workforce Development Board Members

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Steven Wilson, *General Manager, Haralson Metals*

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Welcome

Eddie Ausband and **Randy Hayes**, *ARWDB Co-Chairs*

Kerry Armstrong, *ARC Chairman*

Doug Hooker, *ARC Executive Director*

Emerson Bryan, *ARC Deputy Executive Director*

ARWDB Meeting Action Items

Eddie Ausband and **Randy Hayes**

Lunch

Recognition Presentation

Eddie Ausband and **Randy Hayes**

Recognition of businesses and community partners who further the mission of the workforce development board by expanding opportunities for job seekers, and celebration of the accomplishments of customers who demonstrated extraordinary commitment to enhancing their job skills.

Adjourn

2016 Success Stories

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Training Program (WIOA)

The **Atlanta Regional Workforce Development Board's** (ARWDB) Career Resource Centers saw 38,000 visits during the last year. These customers received individualized career services, such as resume preparation, computer literacy and career counseling. Seventy-one percent of the customers who completed training earned a credential, with 96 percent of them finding employment at an average starting wage of \$18 per hour. The mobile unit continued to provide outreach in all seven counties, serving more than 1,200 visitors. Youth programs reached more than 1,200 young people.



A'Cire Newby

Adult Customer, Clayton Career Resource Center

A'Cire Newby discovered the benefits of WIOA while filing for unemployment and immediately signed up for Atlanta Tech's Surgical Technician program. She earned an Associate's Degree with honors in 2015, ranking third in her class. She was one of only four students to pass the certification exam on their first try. Atlanta Medical Center offered her a job even before she completed her studies. A'Cire was accepted into Chamberlain College's registered nursing program in January 2016 on a scholarship.



Consultorio Medico Hispano Antonio Molina, Chief Operating Officer

Outstanding Community Partner with the Center for Pan Asian Community Services Youth Program

Antonio Molina helps the numerous medical employment trainees, who come through the doors of the Center for Pan Asian Community Services, or CPACS, develop work and life skills. Antonio's extensive community connections have helped the CPACS program expand its community-partner base. Since partnering with Antonio, the job training program has expanded its program offerings. While already holding degrees in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and Political Science from Emory University, Antonio is back in school again, working toward a law degree.



Nedra Bailey

Dislocated Worker Customer, Clayton Career Resource Center

Nedra Bailey's bachelor's and master's degrees couldn't keep her from losing her job in November 2015. She learned about WIOA training and attended a JobSmart Workshop at the Clayton Career Resource Center, gaining confidence in her ability to interview, network, search for jobs, and negotiate job offers. With her new skills, Nedra successfully negotiated a \$3,100 increase to the starting salary offered by IFCO Systems. As the company's new office manager, Nedra manages two administrative assistants and now has benefits, yearly raises and pay-out bonuses throughout the year.



Keimante Lyons

Youth Participant, Hearts to Nourish Hope Youth Program

In the custody of Georgia's foster care system and with nowhere to call home, Keimante Lyons entered the re-entry and transitional housing youth programs at Hearts to Nourish Hope. He worked hard to receive his high school diploma and completed a paid work experience with the Riverdale Fire Department, earning a reputation as a dedicated worker and leader. Keimante continues to volunteer at the fire department while pursuing an automotive training program. He has his own apartment and is enrolled in Hearts to Nourish Hope's Independent Living Program.



Precious Love

Dislocated Worker Customer, Gwinnett Career Resource Center

Despite her extensive experience as a medical lab technician and multiple degrees, Precious Love lost her job and searched for another for a year in vain. She and her four children lost their home and nearly their car. Precious attended a JobSmart Workshop where she learned improved interviewing techniques and with WIOA assistance, she enrolled in the Lean Six Sigma Green Belt program, completing terms for certification in January 2016. She landed a position as a consultant with Merial Inc. in August, earning \$18 more per hour than she earned in her previous job.



Stanford and Thomas Mechanical, Derek Anderson

Outstanding Business Partner, Hearts to Nourish Hope Youth Program

Stanford & Thomas Mechanical is an invaluable business partner to Hearts to Nourish Hope's Transitional Age program, which helps young adults re-enter society after incarceration. Derek Anderson, who works for the HVAC company, enthusiastically mentors program participants, providing hands-on instruction in preventative maintenance and prepares the students for careers in his field. He also works with them on honing problem solving and time management skills. Derek then works closely with Hearts' staff to find employment for these young adults once they have completed their work experience.



Shirley Foulk

JobSmart Workshop Participant, Clayton Career Resource Center

In Shirley Foulk's most recent job, she earned \$10 an hour with no benefits or insurance. She confided that she lacked confidence and was unprepared to pursue a more challenging, better-paying position. Shirley participated in the JobSmart two-day, intensive workshop, conducted at the ARWDB Career Resource Center. Inspired by the workshop coordinator Bill Lins and her newly acquired skills, Shirley landed a job as campus coordinator at Belhaven University Atlanta, winning out over 100 candidates for the position.



Kyle Shelton

Youth Participant, Cherokee Youth Works

Academics never came easy for Kyle Shelton. He dropped out of school in 10th grade with no plans for his future. His life changed quickly this past May when his mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. As his mother began treatment, Kyle approached Cherokee Focus to explore options to support himself and his mom. It was the first time anyone ever told Kyle, “You are going to college!” Kyle earned his GED and is currently enrolled at Chattahoochee Technical College, where he is studying Diesel Equipment Technology.



Jeff Mitchell, SVP City Executive, South State Bank

Outstanding Business Partner with Cherokee Youth Works /Cherokee Focus

Jeff Mitchell is a Cherokee County business leader with a desire to teach young people how to improve their personal finances. Jeff and his employer, South State Bank, donated “Foundations of Personal Finance” (a program written with teens in mind) to Cherokee Youth Works. Jeff also spoke to a class about money management as well as careers in banking. Cherokee Youth Works counts itself fortunate to have Jeff serve on its Board of Directors.



Tamika Seals

Adult Customer, Gwinnett Tech Career Resource Center

Tamika Seals, attended college part-time over the course of seven years while raising her three children. Her studies were put on hold in 2011 when she gave birth to twin sons, 15 weeks early. But this past July, Tamika returned to school, completing the surgical technology program at Gwinnett Tech just 11 months after enrolling. She attended a JobSmart workshop to prepare for her job search. Tamika now works for Athens Regional Health System, earning almost twice as much as she did in her previous job.



Varhonda Goodson

Adult Customer, Clayton Career Resource Center

When Varhonda Goodson was laid off from her job, she decided an education would be her path to a better career. She attended a JobSmart Workshop in Clayton County and enrolled at Atlanta Technical College, to pursue a Health Information Management degree. Varhonda split her academic day into morning and evening sessions, spending each afternoon caring for her terminally-ill mother. In 2016, she graduated Magna Cum Laude with an Associate’s Degree, became certified and was hired by Freedom Chiropractic and Wellness Center. Her next goal is to obtain a Bachelor’s Degree.



Whitaker-Taylor, On-the-Job Training

Scott Burton, CEO, Whitaker-Taylor, On-the-Job Training Employer (pictured left)

Pablo Stuardo, Whitaker-Taylor, On-the-Job Training Participant (pictured right)

Aparna Samudrala, Whitaker-Taylor, On-the-Job Training Participant (pictured center)

In 2013, when the global human resources firm, Whitaker-Taylor was ready to expand, the company found it difficult to find suitable employees and didn't have the time or money to train unskilled workers. Scott Burton, the company's CEO, had recently learned of ARC's On-the-Job Training (OJT) program and decided to explore this option.

Since then, Scott has hired nine employees through the program. The new employees are mainly displaced workers receiving assistance through the Atlanta Regional Workforce Development Board. They have been placed in a range of positions from lead generation to SAP programmers and analysts with salaries of \$55,000 - \$65,000.

Pablo Stuardo was the first OJT candidate hired by Whitaker-Taylor. Pablo transitioned from an intern at the company into a permanent position, earning twice his previous salary as a bookstore clerk. He had a significant skills gap with much to learn about hardware, software and System Applications Products. Whitaker-Taylor was a willing partner, providing the guidance and instruction Pablo needed to quickly obtain these skills.

Pablo's career has flourished in the three years since joining Whitaker-Taylor. He has obtained nearly all levels of SAP certification and had the honor of being invited to speak at SAP's annual conference in Las Vegas this past fall. Pablo was recently promoted, more than doubling his initial salary and now manages Whitaker-Taylor's newest OJT employees.

ARWDB Career Resource Centers

Career Resource Center, Cherokee Branch – Anne Rapp, *Center Manager*

Career Resource Center, Clayton Branch – Dorothy Herzberg, *Center Manager*

Career Resource Center, Douglas Branch – Juanita Horsey, *Center Manager*

Career Resource Center, Gwinnett Branch – Juanita Horsey, *Center Manager*

Career Resource Center, Gwinnett Tech Branch – Brenda Beverly, *Center Manager*

Career Resource Center, Rockdale Branch – Juanita Horsey, *Center Manager*

ARWDB Youth Providers

Cherokee Youth Works/ Cherokee FOCUS– Sonia Carruthers, *Director*

Clayton County Board of Education – Dr. Tammy Foley, *Executive Director*

The Bridge Academy – Tammy Miller, *Executive Director*

Hearts to Nourish Hope (HTNH) – Debbie Anglin, *Chief Executive Officer*

PEPP, Inc. – Linda Shepherd, *Chief Executive Officer*

Association of Village Pride (AVPRIDE) – Pam Reid, *Executive Director*

BPSOS – Trinh Pham, *Program Manager*

Center for Pan Asian Community Services (CPACS) – Yotin Srivanjean, *Director*

CorVel Youth Project – Juanita Horsey, *Career Resource Center Manager*

Connecting Henry – Susan Crumbley, *Director*

CEEK to Fulfill – Evelyn Cooksey, *Executive Director*

Gwinnett Advancement Program (GAP)/Gwinnett Technical College – Brian Wren, *Director*



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