

FLASH FAX/E-NEWS AUG. 30, 2013

Resource Materials

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), have some great videos whether in business engagement activities or if you are engaged with targeted populations (ex-offenders, veterans, people with disabilities, etc.), feel free to explore the three new video resources on the program.

<https://www.workforce3one.org/view/4201319248772636182/info> - Work Opportunity Tax Credit: A Tutorial for Employers - This tutorial provides employers with an introduction to WOTC, details on what workers are eligible and other program requirements, and a step-by-step guide on how to apply for the tax credit.

<https://www.workforce3one.org/view/4201319248423103072/info> - An Introduction to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit - This introductory video for employers and others interested in WOTC provides basic information on the program.

<https://www.workforce3one.org/view/4201319248636184961/info> - Work Opportunity Tax Credit for Veterans - This video provides basic information on WOTC and how the program can be used to increase employment opportunities for veterans, to the benefit of both veterans and employers. All three are also listed on the WOTC resources page: <http://www.doleta.gov/business/incentives/opptax/wotcResources.cfm>.

Correctional Education Findings

On August 22, the Departments of Education and Justice announced findings from the largest-ever meta-analysis of correctional educational studies, conducted by the RAND Corporation. The study showed that prisoners who received education and vocational training were significantly less likely to return to prison after release and were more likely to find employment than peers who did not receive such opportunities. The study also found that correctional education is cost effective: A one dollar investment in prison education translates into reducing incarceration costs by four to five dollars during the first three years post-release. For more information, Visit: <http://www.rand.org/news/press/2013/08/22.html>

Success Story The Dannon Project

Anthony Adams wants to say thank you from the bottom of his heart because without The Dannon Project, he would have gone back to prison for life. Additionally, because of the RExO Generation 3 funds invested in him, his career dream has finally come true. Anthony's career dream was never to become a surgeon, astronaut, or politician; rather, his dream was always to become a truck driver. Due to the partnership The Dannon Project has with the local Workforce Investment Board (Jefferson County Workforce Investment Area), Anthony was able to access an Individual Training Account (ITA) for trucking school. He passed the Commercial Driver's License test but was never allowed to gain employment utilizing his certification. Although it has taken years (this is only after The Dannon Project have continually advocated on his behalf with nearly every state and city agency), Anthony began his dream job with the City of Birmingham as a Certified Truck Driver. Admittedly, Anthony is one of those participants determined never to give up, therefore, he finally passed the GED test! Although his journey was a bit lengthier than others, I am proud to report that Anthony's probation/parole ended April 2013. He is no longer on paper (thanks to our partnership with the Probation Officers terminating it years early). Anthony earned his GED in June 2013.

We continued to provide evening tutoring services to him as follow-up supportive services and set up the exam with Jefferson State Community College. Anthony earned his CDL (2010) and RTW (Ready to Work) certification while in the RExO program and has been employed since. Anthony is a homeowner now (utilizing our housing services and a local partnering agency), he also bought his own vehicle. With the help of his career specialist, Anthony was able to reunite with his family too. Anthony is now in the process of getting his civil rights

Requirements and registration for "Healthy Young America" video contest

The August 22 FEDERAL REGISTER contains full background, eligibility, themes, and submission requirements. The contest is open through September 23. Visit: <http://www.enewspf.com/latest-news/health-care-reform/45447-hhs-launches-partnership-and-video-contest-with-young-invincibles.html>

The simple solution to tackle youth unemployment

Companies used to train college graduates and help them learn the skills they needed on the job, but those days have largely passed. All too frequently, students graduate without tangible job skills and loaded with debt. They've fallen into what I call the training gap. It's time for the U.S. to tackle youth unemployment by borrowing from the apprenticeship programs we have developed at Siemens in Germany.

In an article entitled "Over 20 Percent Youth Joblessness and Still No Apprenticeships", economist Robert Lerman stated that the way out of youth unemployment is through apprenticeship programs which raise the skills and productivity of future workers. That is, turning "productive learners into productive earners", while students are still in high school. I admit – the story isn't exactly a summer beach read, but it caught my attention for a couple of reasons. First, I'm a big believer in apprenticeships as a vehicle for creating a highly skilled workforce as well as meaningful, well-paying work for young people. Second, my daughter just graduated from college and, like many young graduates, is working as a "fellow" after which she'll have to find permanent employment.

In the typical apprenticeship, high school students enter the program while finishing high school. They take college classes, get paid, gain a skill while working and graduate with a degree. At Siemens, we have been involved in apprenticeships since the founding of our company in 1847. It is a concept which goes back for centuries and was alive and well in the U.S. at its founding. In fact, Benjamin Franklin was an apprentice.

If apprenticeship programs are going to work here we need a firm commitment from both the public and private sectors and we need to start in high school. It must be a true partnership, between companies, educators and governments, with each party having "skin in the game" for it to produce meaningful results – in the form of highly skilled young adults ready for today's global job market. The correlation between youth apprenticeships, youth employment and economic prosperity is undeniable. It's time for the U.S. to take a bold step towards reducing youth unemployment by borrowing from this idea. It's a bet worth making. Visit: <http://www.linkedin.com/today/post/article/20130819165448-77238165-the-simple-solution-to-tackle-youth-unemployment>



Comments or Questions? Contact Phyllis Richardson at 1-202-693-3085 or email richardson.phyllis@dol.gov

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