

Board Initiatives:

President's High Growth Job Training Initiatives—Hospitality Industry (Stations Casinos)

INITIATIVES

The Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board was awarded \$1.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, for the President's High Growth Job Training Initiative Hospitality Workforce. The grant is part of the President's High Growth Job Training Initiative. The grant will be used to train more than 10,000 workers in partnership with the Community College of Southern Nevada, the American Hotel & Lodging Association, the Nevada Hospitality Foundation and Stations Resort and Casinos. The project will include an English Workplace Literacy program and the development of a curriculum that is easily replicable to serve as the standard for front-line positions in the hospitality industry.

In relation to receipt of the Department of Labor High Growth Job Training Hospitality Grant, the SNWIB staff was invited to participate in a national Hospitality Industry Webinar—sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, National Association of Workforce Boards and the National Association of State Workforce Agencies. The webinar included DOL's Workforce³One Driven by Demand initiatives highlighting workforce challenges and solutions.

The webinar focused on the hospitality image, recruitment, training and frontline skills certification. Serving a webinar panelists, Ardell Galbreth, deputy executive director presented the SNWIB front line skills certification initiative—highlighting project outcomes such as: 19 Hospitality Front Line Skills-Set Certification; Workplace English Program with Certification Training, 500 Trained Pre-Hire Applicants; 180 Train-the-Trainer Job Coaches; Job Placements for at least 1,800 New Front Line Hospitality Workers, 10,000 Certified Front Line Hospitality Employees and as a by-product, a published Best Practice Model.

The Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board has entered into a Professional Services Contract with Workplace ESL Solutions, to provide Spanish as a second language to Nevada JobConnect One-Stop Center(s) staff. Workplace ESL Solutions is also positioned to provide workplace English to Spanish speaking JobConnect job seekers, on an as needed basis.

YOUTH PROGRAM

Staff has secured additional space at 119 Water St. in Henderson, to accommodate the growing youth customers. This is a short term lease until a more suitable permanent solution can be found.

The Youth Council has recommended that the Board lend its support to Nevada Partners, Inc., application for Governor's Reserve funding for their Building Excellence through

Skill and Talents (BEST) Youth Program. This program is designed to address the high school drop-out problem through the use of strategies that work by helping to present those who are at-risk of dropping out and helping to reconnect those who have already dropped out because they fell through the crack.

The Board is also looking at ways to enhance entrepreneurial training for its customers who are seeking to establish or expand a business enterprise in the southern Nevada community.

SCIENCE AND MATH

The Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board has a great awareness regarding the lack of math and sciences skill amongst the youth. To address this concern, one of our service providers, GNJ Family Life Center (faith based organization) developed and provided a program for youth that gave them an opportunity to become familiar with applied sciences and math.

Doctor for A Day: This program included youth learning about the sciences related to the medical professions, learning CPR and First Aid as well as how to conduct activities related to blood pressure checks, taking vitals and making referrals to see doctors. The youth participated in actual activities and practiced their skills on the seniors at the Buena Vista Springs complex. Additionally, the youth learned about the human anatomy. These youth were now certified CPR and First Aid individuals.

NASA in Texas: In May 2005, the youth traveled to NASA in Texas to participate in activities and learn about space technology and learn how science and math related to this matter. They toured the entire facility and had the opportunity to see an actual spaceship. This activity has made some of them interested in our current space activities.

Atlanta, Georgia and Tuskegee, Alabama College Tours: This activity will take place July 27-29, 2005. Youth will visit colleges in Atlanta and then be transported to Tuskegee University to view and participate in their aeronautic activities. They will learn more about the science and math that is related to this field as well as how it differs from the space activities. They will also learn about the professions related to aeronautics.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board has submitted a grant application to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Workforce Investment Act Limited English Proficiency and Hispanic Worker Initiative. The funding level requested is \$965,528.00 in WIA federal funds which will be complimented with a significant business funded in-kind and cash resources of \$490,700.00.

The proposed partnership between the Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board, Workplace ESL, LLP, Station Casinos, Inc., Boyd Gaming Corp, the Palms Casino, Terra Contracting, Campbell Concrete, and ACS State and Local Solutions is to provide customized English proficiency training to the limited English front line incumbent worker within two distinct targeted high growth industry sectors in southern Nevada.

The Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board responded to the State of Nevada Request for Proposal No. 1471, in the amount of \$1,460,000.00 for a two year period (November 15, 2005-November 15, 2007), to provide intensive case management and counseling for successful re-entry, educational and employment assistance, transitional discharge planning, after care substance abuse and mental health treatment to offenders located at the Casa Grande facility.

MOVING FORWARD

The Board will be tackling the issues around developing policies that relate to minimize wage standards; sector employment and customer suitability.

The Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board has moved its office to Rancho Courtyard, 1127 Rancho Drive, Las Vegas, NV. All phone numbers will remain the same.

On September 12, 2005, the Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board hosted a Gaming Summit in conjunction with G2E Global Gaming Expo 2005 at the Las Vegas Convention C

Job Corps Initiative: In July 2004, the SNWIB deputy board manager was appointed to serve on the National Job Corps Association Governance Committee and participated in the National Job Corps Association's Annual Alpha Awards Program. Southern Nevada Job Corps Center support has been offered by all of Nevada's U.S. Congressional delegation as well as local municipalities. A potential Job Corps Center site location has been identified, i.e., the former Veterans Administration (VA) Health Care Center, which is not vacant, located in Las Vegas at Martin Luther King Boulevard and Vegas Drive. With sufficient resources to include proper funding, the former VA Center would serve as an excellent Job Corps Center with the possibility of including complimentary employment and training programs and agencies.

- **Nevada Department of Corrections Going Home Program:** The Southern Nevada Workforce Investment is a major player in support of Nevada's Department of Corrections "Going Home Program" where life quality resources are brought together by local agencies to help prepare incarcerated inmates for self-sufficiency upon their release, the SNWIB has formally partnered with Nevada's Department of Corrections to provide employment and training services oversight through the Nevada JobConnect Workforce Development System.
- **Southern Nevada One-Stop JobConnect Centers:** All three of Southern Nevada comprehensive One-Stop JobConnect Centers have implemented the "start" program, i.e., an automated client and activities tracking system used by JobConnect office managers and consortium members to determine each center's productivity and service delivery capacity. The "start" system captures all activities accessed by clients utilizing JobConnect services and activities.

- **Youth with Disabilities:** The SNWIB has provided technical assistance to Goodwill of Southern Nevada, Inc., in partnership and preparation of an employment and training project using the Governor’s Reserve Funds to serve at least 50 youth with disabilities. The program objective is to deliver work experience training to afford youth with disabilities the opportunity to hone their skills and effectively compete for, and obtain gainful employment. Also, Stations Casinos has partnered with Goodwill of Southern Nevada and agreed to hire at least ten youth with disabilities throughout the Governor’s Reserve Grant period.

- **People with Disabilities Served:** During this Program Year, i.e., PY2003—as of June 30, 2004 the SNWIB service providers delivered employment and training services to 113 adults and dislocated workers and 191 youth (both younger and older youth). The SNWIB Requests for Proposal place emphasis on delivering employment and training services to people with disabilities as a special population. RFP respondents are required to demonstrate how their agency will assist people with disabilities in removing employment barriers so that they could obtain unsubsidized employment, leading to self-sufficiency.

- **Board Development and Leadership Training:** The SNWIB Board members participated in a workforce development leadership session. During the leadership development session, Board members learned how to identify methods for deciding priorities and developing strategies to tackle key workforce challenges and establish and exchange promising practices to benchmark the SNWIB’s efforts. All-in-all, the leadership development training hit the mark and was well received by the Board members attended.