

Congressional Connection Newsletter Content

Summer 2014 - June, July, August

CRWC

District 3

Congressman Tipton

RR/ME/WE/SW/PB

Pueblo

The Pueblo Region staff was trained on taking a system's approach to designing a pipe line strategy that will close the gap between available workforce and the hiring needs of business. The pipeline process, system design approach, and streamlined project management methodology presentation to the Workforce Investment Board was very well received. Staff is engaged in five project teams to develop the tools for delivery of the Pueblo Pipeline strategy. Some of the common deliverables charged to each team are as follows: Staff is looking for effective ways to document the interventions with the job seeking customer; looking for identifying new workshops and interventions to meet the talent needs for ensuring an effective workforce; looking for new strategies to better serve large numbers of customers and are reviewing workforce labor market information to ensure all staff are delivering quality workforce Intelligence.

Evraz Recruiting/Hiring - Pueblo Workforce Center (PWFC) staff met several times with the Evraz Pueblo Human Resources staff to implement a new recruiting/hiring process. They will be utilizing a corporate wide on-line staffing system (ATS) starting on August 1, 2014. PWFC will continue to do testing for their applicants utilizing the Ramsay Basic Skills Test. Additionally, PWFC staff worked with Evraz HR to recruit, screen and test laid-off employees from the Chevron Mine in Questa, New Mexico. PWFC staff worked directly with the New Mexico Workforce System to coordinate these activities.

Vestas Recruiting - PWFC Business Services Unit met with Vestas HR and Production staff as well as Pueblo Community College to coordinate strategies for recruiting additional welders for Vestas.

On August 26, 2014 the Pueblo Workforce Center staff assisted a customer who had recently been offered an opportunity for a job she really wanted. She did not meet the Workforce Investment Act requirements but was still in need of assistance. The Career Resource Center staff pieced together clothing vouchers for a local thrift store and provided a public transportation voucher, which was enough to get the customer through their first pay period. This was a customer friendly team effort of the Career Resource Center unit of the Pueblo Workforce Center.

Pueblo staff continues to work with Pueblo's two secondary school districts and Pueblo Community College on a cooperative project with the Southern Colorado Manufacturing Group. The project's goal is to better educate students and teachers about potential careers in manufacturing and consists of three phases: tours of manufacturing companies, a two week "Summer Manufacturing Institute" and a mentorship/technical challenge component in which teams of students mentored by a manufacturing

company employee work on technical projects which are then involved in a team competition. This project has received funding from the school districts, local companies and a local foundation. Current focus of the project includes work on a grant funds proposal to be submitted to the HB 1165 (Manufacturing Career Path for Colorado) initiative.

The Pueblo Workforce Center was the host site for a class on Trauma Informed Care that was sponsored by Posada, a local homeless support non-profit agency.

Pueblo Workforce Center staff met with Pueblo Community college to strengthen partnership opportunities for serving students under Workforce Investment Act programs for the TAA-CHEO grant.

Rural Resort

On June 25, 2014, there was a meeting of five private sector employers from the Health & Wellness sector with Core Team members from Region 12, including workforce center staff participation. The group discussed opportunities to grow the sector and agreed to help launch a larger Health & Wellness sector partnership in the September/October time frame.

In July, Rural Resort regional staff have been working with ski and resort industries to schedule a Virtual Job Fair between August 25th and September 15th so that the resort industries may get a head start on their seasonal hiring. Staff is working to recruit industry representatives at locations in Routt County, Grand County, Summit County, Pitkin County and Eagle County.

Rural Resort staff worked together to set up a PowerPoint presentation to explain navigation of Virtual Job Fairs to job seekers. The presentation is only 9 slides long and provides a novice virtual job fair goer with needed information about all the resources available from the site. Resume building, chat rooms, Veteran assistance, and other resources. It is in process of being approved by Government Policy and Public Relations and will be shared with other regions.

Glenwood Springs staff worked with a client who was enrolled into the Workforce Investment Act program and was assisted with the On the Job Training Program. The client was unemployed and living in a safe house with her son. She was unable to find appropriate housing for her and her son. The case manager enrolled her into a training program in a medical facility as a Call Center / Scheduler. She successfully completed her training and within less than a year was recently promoted to Medical assistant, her dream job. She and her son have their own apartment now, and she received her Permanent Residency card.

Frisco youth staff presented to Upward Bound youth program students in Edwards. The presentation included information on resume building, career exploration and assessments, workforce training programs, and the value of registering with a workforce for job search. There were 14 students and 2 trainers attending and participating in activities, which included a completed resume.

Rural Resort staff worked with the Colorado Department of Transportation human resources to provide a virtual job fair in partnership with workforce centers statewide. The virtual job fair was held from

August 1-August 31 and will be available 24 hours to job seekers for information. The department of transportation scheduled human resource staff to be available for chats for questions about the hiring process and other information job seekers may need. The workforce center staff was available to assist job seekers with applications and resumes and any other information needed. Workforce staff worked to recruit job seekers sending messages about the event.

Several events are in the works for Workforce Development Month for the Rural Resort region. Edwards workforce staff have two Virtual Job Fairs scheduled to start in September and are in the planning and employer recruitment stage for a brick and mortar job fair in October. Vail and Beaver Creek resorts and skiing are hosting the 2015 Alpine World Ski Championships in February and are trying very hard to “beef” up their staff for the influx of participants and visitors and the workforce center is trying hard to assist them with their staffing.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission presentations for employers are scheduled in Frisco, Leadville, and Edwards in the Rural Resort region. Labor Market Information employer presentations are planned and will take place the first of October with advertising going out to employers in September.

Glenwood Springs workforce staff met with staff of Garfield County Human Services to present information on workforce services and programs. Workforce staff gave detailed information to 31 case managers on Connecting Colorado, job search assistance, resume preparation and Workforce Investment Act. Many of the case managers reported that they were unaware of all the services workforce centers could provide and appreciated the information and would make referrals.

Frisco youth staff member attended the Return to School Night at Summit High School. Workforce staff met many youth and parents at the event and gave information on Connecting Colorado, current job fairs and job search, resume preparation and other services and programs provided by Colorado Workforce Centers.

Leadville staff attended the Colorado Mountain College Resource Fair at the Timberline campus an event held to introduce new and returning students and faculty to resources within the community. Eighteen vendors presented information at the fair to over 30 individuals and workforce staff provided programs and services information available through the workforce centers. Staff completed 11 new Connecting Colorado registrations and one reactivation.

Frisco staff was invited by the Mountain Mentors Youth Program to present a workshop on resume building and job hunting. Staff presented a Resume Building PowerPoint and then gave tips and strategies for resume building and job hunting for the youth perspective to 4 students and 1 adult. Each student completed a resume saved to a flash drive provided by staff. Connecting Colorado registration was completed and information regarding workforce services and programs was provided.

Edwards staff were invited to present workforce information on services and programs available through the workforce to the Health Assistance Network Providers of Northwestern Colorado. There were 17 attendees at the Eagle County Human Services offices in Edwards. All were very interested in

the services provided and reported that they would refer some of their clients to the workforce centers for further assistance.

During the entire month of August, Colorado Department of Transportation participated in a Virtual Job Fair sponsored by the Colorado Workforce Centers in the Rural Resort region. The event was initiated by business services group of the Rural Resort and Northwest regions. Logistics and planning were coordinated by staff in the Colorado Department of Transportation, Colorado Department of Labor & Employment-Virtual Job Fair office, and by staff in the Glenwood Springs workforce center. The event was held statewide as there are openings in various areas. Glenwood Springs workforce staff disseminated information to all workforce office locations. Approximately 5189 registered job seekers logged in to the event during the month. There is no information available regarding applications received.

Freeport-McMoRan Climax Mine held a hiring event at the Frisco workforce center in the Rural Resort region. The company is looking to fill multiple positions for 3 different job titles specifically. Workforce staff coordinated the event and sent messages to 1800 registered job seekers in 9 different counties who reported similar skills to what the mine was asking. 14 job seekers attended the event and were interviewed by the mine human resource staff. Several of these job seekers were assisted by workforce staff in completing the online application which is very involved and six new job seekers were registered on Connecting Colorado as a result. The mine is reviewing and will hire in the future.

Leadville workforce staff in the Rural Resort region coordinated with O'Reilly Auto Parts to hold a hiring event for their new store opening in Leadville. Workforce staff met with human resources several weeks prior to the store completion, posted job openings and sent messages about the opportunities to registered job seekers. Twelve candidates attended and completed online applications; four of those job seekers have been hired.

Western

In July, The Western Region Workforce Centers continued local collaboration with other agencies and stakeholders. The workforce center will continue the "Empowering Dads" program for an additional year in partnership with Montrose Health and Human Services. The program will be going into its four year in providing job internships and employment coaching for dads.

Delta County continues to experience an economic downturn as a result of the Oxbow Mine closure and its impact on the local community. Delta and Gunnison Counties have been awarded a federal Economic Development Grant for an intensive economic and feasibility study of possible industries or economic development drivers to be developed.

The elimination of Adult Basic Education Funding for the Western and Southwest Region was reviewed by Colorado Department of Education and the funding methodology for this year was found to be flawed. As a result, funding for Adult Basic Education was restored for an additional year with a new funding process and methodology to be developed this year.

Delta and Montrose Workforce Center staff conducted outreach activities at Delta Correctional Facilities for offenders.

Rapid Response activities and outreach were provided to Delta Meadow Gold employees who are being laid off because of the office closing. Delta and Montrose Workforce Center staff provided information on UI, Workforce Center services, job search activities and labor marketing outlook.

In August, the region worked on improving coordination and collaboration with local partners and continues to be a Western Region Workforce goal. Western Region staff has focused on making contact with local schools to assist students in preparing, finding and keeping work.

Western region local ranchers and farmers continue to discuss their frustration with guest worker programs under the H2A and H2B programs. Many are seeking political assistance in reforming the system to make it easier to obtain workers.

A local group is focusing on the mistreatment of sheep herders who they feel are being under-paid and working in sub-par conditions. The group has started conducting outreach to sheepherders in an effort to identify key issues and problems.

Southwest

As a Chamber Ambassador, a Cortez Workforce Center staff acknowledged Sonic in July for the wonderful work opportunities they provide to the local youth by providing donuts to their staff. The Cortez newspaper published this story and mentioned the Workforce Center's role in placing youth.

Air Products the new helium plant in Dolores County, utilized the Cortez Workforce Center to conduct their second round of interviews.

The Durango Workforce Center co-hosted a Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity training for local employers. Patti McMann, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and Francis McDonald, Colorado Civil Rights Division, presented while Kit Chalbert, United States Department of Justice, facilitated.

Quote from client Francis McDonald:

“You and each of your staff were such big helps in putting together the Anti-Discrimination in Employment classes produced by the Colorado Civil Rights Division this week. Please accept my thanks for all the hard work you and your staff both accomplished on our behalf. You brought together interested participants which allowed for a great deal of give-and-take. The training was easy to accomplish since the audience was relaxed in your office atmospheres and most comfortable in asking questions and relaying scenarios that required thought on the part of each person in the room.”

In August, the Southwest Region Cortez Workforce Center staff worked with the schools in Montezuma County and presented the A-Game to small groups of their students throughout the past two years. The schools saw a value in this tool and Cortez High School is requiring all of their students go through the

A-Game for youth course during the current school year. The workforce center staff will be assisting the teachers, as needed, with the curriculum. "Bring Your 'A-Game' to the Montezuma –Cortez High School Homecoming Parade" is the school's homecoming theme this year.

Regional staff provided a brief presentation at the Vets to Vets meeting in Pagosa Springs on the workforce center services as well as the progress being made on getting ready for the Veteran's Stand Down to be held in Durango in November and presented to the Recovery Center on workforce center services.

Staff also attended Durango Area Human Resource Manager's Employment Law training to learn new employment laws and gather resources that can be shared with employers.

District 4

Congressman Gardner

SE/EA

Eastern

In July, the Eastern Workforce Region submitted and received a youth grant from the State Youth Council. The funding was used to hold a week long Career Camp. The intent of the camp was both to expose youth to local career opportunities and also provide an introduction to soft skills training. The success of this camp was in part due to the strong partnerships developed as a result of our sub-regional youth councils.

- Held the week of June 2nd -6th, Twenty two youth participated,
- Morgan Community College was our major partner and all training session were held on their campus. Other partners included Morgan County Youth Council; Centennial BOCES; Fort Morgan High School; IOG of Morgan County; Centennial Mental Health (HB-); Northeastern Colorado Association of Local Government; Morgan County Department of Human Services; Local business leaders; Fort Morgan Workforce Center; and Rural Solutions.
- Onsite career presentations, tours of area business' and a tour of larger business' in Ft Collins were all part of the Career Camp.
- A sectors approach was taken when scheduling the tours and presenters. The different sectors we focused on included: Oil and Gas Industry; Ag Processing and related industries; Law Enforcement; Health Care; Government and small business owners.
- Throughout the week, numerous videos on soft skills were presented through videos selected from US Department of Labor website on teamwork, communication and enthusiasm

and attitude. Open discussions were held on why employers value these skills in the workplace.

- Student Comments:

“At first I thought it was gonna be all lame and boring, honestly-but then I’m glad I came! It’s simply fantastic! 100%”

“I really enjoyed this! I like how you guys made us feel confident and comfortable. “

The Eastern Workforces Region Sterling office conducted four hiring events during the month of July. During three days, July 21, 22, and 23 the office worked with three employers and 33 people were hired during this time frame. They also provide two Rapid Response workshops for area business that closed.

Elizabeth staff member met with AgrAbility Program, Candiss Leathers, Sam Rothrock Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to develop a plan for assistance to local resident and attended a Social Security Presentation in Denver by Roberta Eckert of Nationwide Retirement Institute and Joel Karban Investment Advisor, Parker, CO. Presentation was very informative and helpful to anyone considering filing for Social Security.

A Fort Morgan staff and a member of the Morgan County Youth Council participated in the Art in the Park (in conjunction with a local music festival Bobstock) and in collaboration with Rise Above Colorado (formerly Colorado Meth Project) and it was a huge success. There were five student artists who created boards with their art work of spray painted murals depicting activities to engage in instead of using drugs and alcohol.

A Fort Morgan Workforce staff met with a representative from the Goodwill Career Enrichment program to discuss the future of the “Get To Work” work search workshop and its role with the Goodwill program.

In August, the Eastern Workforce Region continued to build local youth councils in each of our six office areas. At the last regional Youth council it was determined that the current youth council bylaws need to be reviewed and revised.

The Eastern Workforce Region continued to build relationships with local economic development organizations, Small Business Administration, area Chamber of Commerce, local governments and community colleges to work towards economic stability and growth within our region. A part of these efforts includes use of training funds and use of SECTORS to assist with a strong local partnership.

The Eastern Workforce Region exhibited what could be considered a blueprint for teamwork. The region is a large geographical area with offices located many miles apart with three one person offices. Our Burlington office had received a new youth grant, was working on a special youth work experience program with Kit Carson County and attending to the normal busy summer season. As a part of the youth grant Elizabeth, Yuma, Limon and Burling Workforce staff combined forces. Another issue arose when the Burlington staff member was out for long term medical leave.

- Elizabeth, Limon and Yuma Workforce Center specialist came together to co present during the week long soft/work skills portion of our youth grant.
- Case Managers from Limon and Yuma each spent two days per week in Burlington for office coverage during the long term medical leave.
- These Case Managers enrolled work experience youth for the Youth Council grant as well as supervised and completed all required procedures for the work experience.
- Staff went to Kit Carson location to meet with human services and youth to enroll them into the TANF work experience program. Met in Kit Carson regularly to supervise the youth as well as pickup time sheets and processed all paperwork to complete this program.
- Organized the close out event for the youth grant with assistance from region director and Fort Morgan staff.
- Conducted a housing inspection forty miles south of Burlington and submitted paperwork for this and conducted daily business for the Burlington office as well as their own offices.

The Eastern Region Sterling office participated in two youth related events with great success during August. The first was as a part of the Interagency Oversight Group's effort to provide school supplies to area youth. The staff spoke with forty youth about workforce programs as well as made three connections with community partners to discuss future youth related projects.

The second event was Northeastern Junior College's Community/Club Fair is held the first week of college to expose students to area community organizations as well as on campus club opportunities. Workforce staff spoke with over sixty students about services encouraged them to register in Connecting Colorado and provided area labor market information about part time jobs available.

Fort Morgan Workforce Center staff member presented an overview of workforce services to fifteen inmates from the Sterling correctional Facility re-entry program and an Elizabeth staff member attended Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce Business after hours meeting.

Sterling staff members attended the local Interagency Oversight Group School Supplies Giveaway which provides school supplies to those students who need them. During this event the Workforce staff was also able to discuss the workforce center services with area students. A staff member attended the first meeting of the Northeastern Junior College Scholarship Committee for the upcoming nursing class. This meeting was attended by Secondary education representatives, Industry representatives, Workforce Center representative and nursing school faculty. Staff members attended the Community/Club Fair. This event organized by Northeastern Junior College is designed to provide information to college students regarding local business, service organizations and college clubs. The Workforce Center discussed services with students and encouraged registration to be able to see what part time positions may be available.

A staff member attended the Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce Business over Breakfast meeting. Dick Eason Town Administrator spoke to area business regarding, business retention, growth and also the

development of new business opportunities.

Southeast

In July, most of the Southeast region Registered Nursing students from the 2013-2014 class at Lamar Community College who participated in the Workforce Investment Act have completed and passed needed classes. About 40% of these students are now employed. The rest are seeking employment and traveling throughout the state to find employment.

Trinidad Workforce Center staff members have assisted a Veteran with special disability periodically over the last three years because the veteran was thinking about leaving the oil and gas fields to explore other employment opportunities. Periodically the Veteran would come to the Workforce Center and discuss jobs that were open in the area and the training necessary and experience needed to secure the employment. The veteran soon expressed his desire to go into the Lineman Program at Trinidad State Junior College and was referred to the Workforce Investment program for possible tuition assistance.

The veteran received program assistance and completed the Lineman Program, but was told that he needed a CDL-A to be competitive in finding employment as a lineman in the Energy Field. Staff evaluated the veteran's unemployment status to explore utilizing the UI Pilot Project to fund his CDLA training under the Dislocated Worker Reemployment Project. Ultimately the Veteran did apply for the UI Pilot Project and was able to obtain his CDLA driver's license. The veteran applied for a position with the US Army Corp of Engineer as a maintenance person who needed electrical experience plus other experience in maintenance. Because the veteran was over 30 percent VA rated Veteran he did not have to go through the normal hiring process and was hired on July 21, 2014. The Veteran was told that due to training received at Trinidad State Junior College, possession of a CDLA and his clean driving record he was considered an ideal applicant.

A Lamar workforce Center staff attended Partners for HOPE center meeting to discuss the summer schedules. The board also discussed more in-depth the funding for the upcoming year. They will be receiving funding that will help with costs through the end of next year and are awaiting notification of the total amount to be received. There was also discussion on other grants available for the HOPE center.

The Arkansas Valley Manufacturing Group is continuing to meet on a monthly basis and continuing to follow the format setup as described at the Sectors Summit. The most recent meeting was attended by representatives of the Southeast Workforce Center, Otero Junior College, DeBourgh Manufacturing, Oliver Manufacturing, Cheraw Schools, La Junta Schools, Otero County Economic Development, La Junta Economic Development and See The Change USA. A discussion was held to determine if local manufacturers are interested in sponsoring a Cardboard Challenge with area schools. Inspired by the short film, 'Caine's Arcade', the Cardboard Challenge is an event that celebrates child creativity and the role communities can play in fostering it. Kids of all ages are invited to build anything they can dream up using cardboard, recycled materials and imagination.

The Cardboard Challenge gives children an opportunity to collaborate, learn, and build the things they

imagine through a simple process called Creative Play. The Challenge lets children explore their interests and passions; teaches critical thinking, resourcefulness, perseverance, teamwork and other 21st century skills; and brings communities together to foster and celebrate child creativity. Local manufacturers are hoping that local schools will collaborate on this project. 'See The Change USA' gave a presentation on their organization and its goal to implement an age appropriate Physics curriculum and professional development program in middle schools across the nation. The goal will rapidly improve the level of students' achievements in Science and Mathematics to out-perform global competition and will create the strongest pipeline for American Science & Engineering qualified professionals to sustain the level of innovation the industries demand today and in the future. The presentation was very interesting especially to the manufacturers who were present. This program starts students in a separated physics class in the 6th grade and builds through 7th and 8th.

In August, a young lady the age of 16, was enrolled in the Workforce Investment Act Youth Program under the 5% window slot. She was granted a 16-hour internship, where she worked as Office Assistant at a local Town Hall. In addition, after the internship, she began a 100-hour work experience and has nearly completed her hours. The Worksite supervisor was very impressed with this young lady and said she has done a great job with the responsibility.

Due to a recent reduction in force at Trinidad State Junior College in the Southeast region, several faculty members were laid off, including a staff person who worked closely with the Walsenburg Workforce Center in referring students for information about the Workforce Investment Act. Workforce Center staff is continuing their effort to create a new partnership with faculty at the school, but so far have been unsuccessful. Trinidad State Junior College has also put the Lineman Program on hold for this year with the exception of the semester program in Colorado Springs.

Staff completed outreach to migrant seasonal farmworkers and growers. The following services were provided to growers: Colorado minimum wage posters, USDOL Migrant Protection Act Standards posters, Workforce Center Business services information, current AG labor market, sanitary field inspections. The following services were provided to farmworkers: Farmworker rights, Colorado minimum wage posters, Migrant/Seasonal Farmworker Protection Act information, and workforce center job seeker information, Valley Wide Health Care Center, Bueno HEP GED program, and Project Destiny GED program. A total of twelve days of outreach was completed. Nine contacts were made to employers with three job orders completed.

Staff met with a staff person from High Plain Community Health Center to discuss the potential of future On the Job Trainings and Work Experience placements at their facility.

Employment First Job Skills Workshop was held at the Otero County Department of Humans Services. Workforce Center staff provided an overview of Workforce Center services, Connecting Colorado orientation, Interview skills, Resume preparation and website information on College in Colorado, Reality Check and overview of website. The County workshops require registration with the Workforce. This partnership adds registration, referral, and reactivation services for the Workforce Center. There is ongoing discussion with the staff from Otero County to improve and add to the content of the

workshops. These workshops are a good community outreach, benefit local jobseekers, and strengthen the employer partnership.

Staff attended the Lamar Community College scholarship board meeting. Lamar Community College approached Lamar Workforce Center staff to inform that they would be starting up a scholarship board for the scholarships given to the college medical program students, such as nursing. The college invited a Workforce staff person to be a member of this new board. This is a great opportunity for the community college and workforce center to partner in serving the college student population as well as distribute information about the Workforce Investment Program to both faculty and students.

Staff attended Southern Colorado Coalition meeting in Pueblo. A presentation was given by Becky Vasquez over "Licencia para todos" (License's for everyone). It provided detail information over the process for undocumented people to get a license in the State of Colorado. Agency reports were provided. Workforce Center staff informed the board of the recent office move to La Junta, Colorado.

Staff attended Southern Colorado Coalition meeting in La Junta. Workforce Center staff informed the board of the recent office move to La Junta, Colorado. Final details to the farmworker appreciation dinner were completed.

Workforce Center Staff provided pesticide training to Migrant Seasonal Farmworker clients in Rocky Ford. Over 70 workers were in attendance for the presentation. Worker Protection Pesticide training was provided to Padilla Produce and Proctor Farms farmworkers and informed the employer and workers of the new Workforce Center location in La Junta. The pesticide training covers the responsibilities of the employer and worker on pesticide safety and when to not enter the recently sprayed fields. This training is good for one calendar year.

Staff attended and assisted the local farmworkers appreciation dinner, an annual event for the Southeastern Colorado Services Coalition. This dinner is provided to the seasonal and migrant farmworkers who harvest the crops in the Arkansas Valley, a total of 125 workers attended.

On August 27, Frances McDonald from the Colorado Division of Civil Rights presented a seminar to area employers focused on Anti-Discrimination in Employment which covered the basics of Colorado employment discrimination, including an overview of the protected classes, discriminatory harassment and discrimination, sexual harassment in the workplace as well as the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees. Included was an overview of the Colorado Job Protection and Civil Rights Enforcement Act of 2013 which Governor Hickenlooper signed into law on May 6, 2013 effective January 1, 2015. This seminar was well attended with over 14 different businesses represented ranging from County Government and major manufacturers to privately owned small businesses.

Corrections Corporation of America Bent County held a Hiring Event at the La Junta and Lamar Workforce Centers. Facility staff members were available to assist job seekers through the application process and interviews on site at the event. Fourteen individuals attended these hiring events and six individuals were hired as a result of these hiring events.

The new CHAMP Program Navigator from Lamar Community College in the Southeast region has begun

coming once a week to the Lamar Workforce Center to speak with individuals that are or may become interested in manufacturing fields of study.

Community outreach was set up at the Southeast Region Rocky Ford Library to assist the community during the recent move of the Rocky Ford Workforce Center to the new location in La Junta. Staff assisted with registrations, reactivations, resumes, website orientation, and answered questions regarding the upcoming move. This will be an on-going outreach effort every Friday afternoon with a Workforce staff person available to help job seekers and employers at the library.

Staff from the Walsenburg Workforce Center in the Southeast region are partnering with the Southern Colorado Educational Opportunity Center and John Mall High School to engage seniors to enroll and apply for Financial Assistance for college for the upcoming school year 2015.

Congressman Udall

Congressman Bennet

Statewide

South Central

In July, a Unemployment Insurance (UI) Pilot Project participant in the South Central Region reported that he is employed at Valley Meat and his job involves driving a delivery truck, which requires a CDL. He expressed his gratitude for the training received through the UI Pilot Project, and feels that without successfully obtaining his CDL through this program he would not be employed at Valley Meat, and wouldn't be able to make the wage he is currently earning.

A hail storm in the Center, CO area damaged some of the potatoes, iceberg lettuce, spinach, romaine lettuce, Kale and broccoli crops. The contractors have been able to harvest the iceberg and romaine lettuce even though it was damaged by the hail. The yield for these two crops will be a lot less compared to crops without damage. Migrant Seasonal Farmworker Outreach is provided on a frequent and regular basis.

South Central Region staff attended the Adelante Resource Fair at 511 6th Street in Alamosa, with 30 individuals from 17 organizations in attendance. A presentation of services offered by the Workforce was given at the resource fair.

One MSFW housing inspection was successfully completed for Del Rey Packing in Center, Colorado and another was successfully completed for Growers Inc. in Monte Vista, Colorado.

The Southwest Conservation Youth Corp invited the South Central Workforce Region to present a job readiness class at the Nielsen Library at 208 Edgemont on the Adams State University campus. There were 20 in attendance at this event. This included information and workshops on searching for work, filling out applications, preparing resumes, and preparing for interviews.

Rio Grande Social Services TANF classes and workshops were presented with 3 individuals attending.

This included a job search workshop, application and resume prep, interviewing techniques, and mock interviews. Five Prove It tests were given. Employment First classes were held weekly, with presentations/classes and workshops that were given to 14 individuals. This includes Prove-It testing to evaluate skills levels for employment, application instructions, resume preparation, interviewing techniques, and mock interviews.

Conejos County Social Services TANF classes were held on July 22nd. South Central Region staff presented the classes/workshops. There were two individuals that completed the class this month. These individuals participated in a job search workshop and presentation, along with instruction and workshops for applications and resumes. In addition they were set up for testing through Prove-It for assessment of basic skills, and instructed to enroll in a minimum of one class that would increase their employment options through the Virtual On-Line Learning class through the Conejos County Library.

The South Central Workforce Centers hosted a discrimination training/roundtable presented by Francie McDonald from DORA. This training was held at the Alamosa Workforce Center. There were twelve in attendance, ranging from employers to managers, and an Alamosa County Commissioner. Additional materials were left at the Workforce to be used as needed.

In August, the South Central Region Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker staff has assisted 2 Farm Labor Contractors (Del Rey Packing and Jeffrey Crowther) in obtaining their State and Federal Licensing for the month. Migrant Seasonal Farmworker outreach work continued with a great deal of outreach conducted throughout the month. Lettuce, spinach and carrot harvest are three weeks behind normal harvesting times due to major hail storms that have impacted the crops. Therefore, growers have had to wait for the crops to recover. Southern Colorado Farms grew Kale and Broccoli, which is also currently being harvested. Through outreach efforts additional offers have been made to assist with obtaining more workers if needed due to the timing of harvest. Job orders have begun coming in from local farmers for potato harvest work. Some farmers are starting potato harvest as early as September 2nd, and some are starting as late as September 20th.

Job readiness workshops were conducted for Rio Grande Employment First by workforce staff. There were a total of six individuals in attendance at the three workshops. Workforce staff conducted a job readiness workshop for Rio Grande County TANF. A job readiness workshop was also held for students participating in Southwest Conservation Youth Corps. This was held at the Adams State University Computer Lab. There were 25 students from ages 14 through 18 that attended this event.

Workforce staff has been working on setting up an initial meeting for the healthcare sector in the San Luis Valley South Central region. The first meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2014.

Upper Arkansas

In July, the Upper Arkansas Regional Supervisor participated in a strategy meeting at the Pueblo Workforce Center with the Colorado Department of Corrections. The purpose of the strategy meeting was how to successfully use the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment's Virtual Job Fair for job openings for offenders currently incarcerated and ex-offenders. In August, the Colorado Department of Corrections awarded the Buena Vista Correctional Facilities Recruitment and Retention Committee its

Team Excellence Award. This award is, in large part, a direct result of the extremely effective recruiting partnership between the Upper Arkansas Regional Workforce Centers and the Buena Vista Correctional Facility. Numerous recruiting activities to include physical job fairs, virtual job fairs, and recruitment drives resulted in a marked increase of qualified new hires. Upon accepting the award, Buena Vista Correctional facility staff members stated that they “consider the Upper Arkansas Workforce Centers to be a part of their Recruiting and Retention Team.”

On August 3-4, 2014, the Salida Workforce Center moved their office to the historic Toubert Building in Salida to provide one-stop customer service to the employers and job seekers of Chaffee County. With this relocation, customers are now in the immediate proximity of the Colorado Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Chaffee County Department of Human Services, the Chaffee County Department of Veteran Affairs, Chaffee County offices, and the City of Salida.

In June, 2013, a major wildfire ravaged the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park destroying 52 of the 54 structures in the park, the majority of park employees lost their jobs. One of them was a senior citizen living on a fixed income and barely surviving from Social Security and her seasonal income before the fire. What followed was a catastrophic chain of events for the senior; losing thousands of dollars due to a scam, losing her childhood home, being struck by an automobile in a supermarket parking lot, etc. When things were the bleakest in August, 2014, the senior was referred by the Cañon City Workforce Center to a new position at her previous employer for a year-round position resulting in a stable employment situation for the senior previously living on the economic edge. The senior presented at the Cañon City Workforce Center to thank them for not giving up on her and helping her “get her life back.” The Cañon City Workforce Center hosted the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park hiring events for several days during the month.

The Cañon City Workforce Center participated in the Cañon City Chamber of Commerce’s Prospectors meetings to help promote Chamber activities and hosted Eastern Star, a contractor for the Colorado Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, client case management sessions.

The Cañon City Workforce Center hosted the Select Staffing hiring event and a Job Corps enrollment event and began appearing on routine broadcasts on the local radio station KRLN AM/FM. Staff members discuss services available at the Cañon City Workforce Center, programs available, how to do job searches on ConnectingColorado.com, etc. The Workforce Center also hosted the Senior Resource Development Agency recruiting event and the Stephens Transportation hiring event.

Northwest

In July, the Steamboat Springs staff attended the sector summit in Denver in May 2014. After returning, staff recruited economic developers from Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt counties plus Tourism/Outdoor Recreation employers to set up a Sector Partnership for Region 11. The combined group applied for the coach application which was accepted and will allow national experts to assist in setting up a Tourism/Outdoor Recreation Sector Partnership over the next year. Their first meeting with the national experts from Collaborative Economics was held July 28th. Additional partners will be recruited from the region to begin the process of setting up the Sector Partnership.

Steamboat Springs workforce staff presented information regarding workforce services and programs to attendees of the Routt County Independent Living Community Forum. Eleven other community organizations were in attendance and the presentation was introductory or reinforcement to those organizations. Staff also attended the Bridges Out of Poverty Resource Night “graduation” from the program for clients after attending classes once per week for the last 18 weeks. The classes focus on giving clients the tools to allow them to grow out of the poverty status that they have been in. The program consisted of 21 clients for this session and 18 attended the event. Most clients have found that they have a brighter outlook and better tools to manage their lives and their future after completion of the course. Steamboat workforce staff has been involved and offer resources for the past 3 years of the program.

Steamboat Springs workforce center partnered with CC Enterprises to host a hiring event for flaggers. Staff set up flyers and posters, sent messages to job seekers, posted the event on Connecting Colorado and provided flagger testing to applicants. Two job seekers attended the event and one was hired. The company is still looking for more and staff continues to recruit for the company.

Northwest and Rural Resort regional staff have been working with ski and resort industries to host a Virtual Job Fair between August 25th and September 15th so that the resort industries may get a head start on their seasonal hiring. Staff worked to recruit industry representatives at locations in Routt County, Grand County, Summit County, Pitkin County and Eagle County. The regional business services groups contacted ski resorts in the area during August to assist with the seasonal hiring. The group collected necessary information from different resorts throughout the areas and helped set up the Virtual Job Fair for early hiring. Granby Ranch, Winter Park, Vail Resorts, The Arrabelle at Vail, Aspen Ski Co, and The Lodge at Vail are all participating.

The Northwest Workforce Investment Board meeting was held in Steamboat Springs on July 17 and at that time Scott Harrell of Peabody Energy (Twentymile Mine) gave a presentation on the status of the coal mining industry in Colorado, which he stated is “struggling.” A large part of the northwestern Colorado economy is based on the mining industry. He stated that between April 2013 and April 2014, coal mining industry lost approximately 380 jobs. Although this is not many, each direct mining job supports 3-4 other jobs in the communities where mining is being done and there does not seem to be any expectations of this trend easing or reversing.

Rangely workforce staff met with Rio Blanco department of Human Services in Rangely to continue the partnership and explain workforce process to new staff. Staff partnered with CC Enterprises to host a hiring event for traffic control flaggers. Recruitment was done through Connecting Colorado and staff personally called job seekers due to short notice from the company. Six job seekers attended and 3 were hired that day.

Granby workforce staff collaborated with other members of the Grand County Economic Development Youth Engagement group to discuss ideas and plans for allowing youth to remain in the community and retain financial stability. Plans are in process for a business mentoring program which will allow youth to work and learn skills.

Craig workforce center partnered with CC Enterprises to host a hiring event for flaggers. Staff recruited attendees through email messages, posters, and Connecting Colorado postings. Twenty job seekers attended the event and approximately 15 were hired after workforce staff tested and issued flagging certificates or ensuring that the individual held a current flagging certificate.

Wyndham Resorts contacted the Craig workforce center for assistance with a hiring event in the Craig area for staff needed in their Steamboat Springs location. The event was posted on Connecting Colorado and staff sent messages to over 400 registered job seekers. There were 10 attendees at the event and although Wyndham representatives hoped for more, they were pleased with the efforts of workforce staff.

In August, Craig and Steamboat Springs workforce centers sponsored a roundtable through Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The offices partnered with Colorado Northwestern Community College and Colorado Mountain College respectively to host Patricia McMahon of the commissions outreach program. Craig had 6 employers in attendance and Steamboat Springs had 7 employers. McMahon presented information on diversity in the workplace, employment and equality in the workplace, dangerous words and excuses, and unconscious bias. She also gave a little history as it is the 50th anniversary of the civil rights act. All participating liked the presentation and most survey results were positive.

Steamboat Springs staff attended the Colorado Mountain College Community Resources Fair, an annual event held by the college for new students and gives students and others the opportunity to become familiar with the community and what resources are available. Workforce staff received 13 new youth registrations at the event and spoke with other individuals about the programs and comprehensive services available.

Granby workforce staff continues to meet with Colorado Department of Transportation representatives and community representatives regarding the Highway 9 project. Community monies are also invested in this project and there are a lot of ongoing conversations about hiring locally. Workforce staff is directly involved so that they can list any openings for any contractor that wins the bids for the project. The bid process will begin the end of September 2014 with construction beginning in spring 2015.

Granby workforce staff met with Grand Futures program director to present information regarding workforce services and programs that are designed to assist youth. This is a collaborative process to bring resources from both agencies together to better provide for the youth population within the communities.

Rangely workforce staff participated in the Resource Fair held at Colorado Northwestern Community College. Workforce staff had been a major part of the preparation and recruiting for the event which is held in order to welcome new students and returning students to Rangely and provide them with information regarding resources and services within the community. Approximately 200 attended the event which had a number of different non-profit agencies, retail, and restaurants as vendors.

Workforce staff received 12 new registrations at the event, 9 of which were youth who were referred to the Workforce Investment Act program for possible assistance with training or other assistance.