

**St. Lawrence County
One-Stop Career Center "Partners Working Together"**

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
WWW.SLCONESTOP.COM

SEARCHLIGHT

Quarterly Newsletter 2009



NYS Dept. of Labor—Division of Employment Services * St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES * St. Lawrence County Office of Economic Development
St. Lawrence County Department of Social Services * St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging * St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau
St. Lawrence County Veterans' Services Department * Vocational Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities

What's Happening

Empire State College

A representative from Empire State College will be at the One-Stop Career Center on

Monday, November 2nd
Monday, December 7th
Monday, January 4th
at 4:00 pm

YESID Orientation is held the second Friday of every month at 1:00 PM at the One-Stop Career Center. This month the date is
Friday, November 13th
Friday, December 11th
Friday, January 8th
(2nd Floor Conference Room)
at 1:00 pm

The One-Stop Career Center will be closed on the following dates:

Monday, October 12th in observance of Columbus Day

Tuesday, November, 3rd in observance of Election Day

Wednesday, November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day

Thursday and Friday, November 26th and 27th in observance of Thanksgiving

Friday, December 25th in observance of Christmas and

Friday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day

GED Preparation Adult Basic Education

Anyone who is at least 21 years old and does not possess a high school diploma is eligible to enroll and attend classes for free at one of the BOCES Learning Centers. Day and evening classes available.

The next GED test will be
November 21 and 22
Exam application due by 11/4/09

**Call toll free to sign up for class and/or GED test:
1-888-360-7693 Ext. 400**

Reignite Your Job Search

Our present economy has taken its toll on the workforce, resulting in an extremely high unemployment rate. Re-entering the workforce is difficult, frustrating and not at all an easy task. Jobs are scarce and high paying jobs are even more scarce, resulting in what the government refers to as "discouraged workers." These are individuals who have given up on their job search and their ranks have hit an all time high. In August there were 758,000 discouraged workers nationwide. These workers don't show up in the nation's unemployment rate, but the swelling rates reveal a tighter job market than originally thought. The jobless rate for August was 9.7%, but if you add in the discouraged job seekers the rate rises to 10.1%.

The job search process has changed significantly in the past few years making it harder for workers, especially older workers, to figure out tactics to land a new job. Lengthy job searches can hurt morale, reduce enthusiasm and lead to discouragement.

Don't throw in the towel!

As job seekers become frustrated, many think it's a good idea to take some time off their search, raising the number of discouraged workers. This is **NOT** a good strategy to adopt.

Stay productive, stay motivated and think positive! Here are some concrete steps to assist you:

- Write down what positions you're looking for and what you're qualified to do
- Figure out the possible job titles for these positions
- Figure out the job titles of your potential managers
- Come up with a list of 50 different companies you'd consider working for, even if they have no jobs available presently
- Make a list of 100 people you know, everyone from relatives to former colleagues
- Connect with each person on the list individually, not with email or text message, find out if they know anyone at the 50 companies you identified that might hold a position you've targeted.

Frequently, the wrong question is asked, "are there any jobs out there?" What should be asked is: "This is the job I want, do you know anyone who might be able to bring me on board?"

Spend time working on your job search, not just worrying about it. Active job searchers spend 1.97 hours per day on their job search. Increase your job search activity, not your job search anxiety. You'll feel better physically and find work faster.

More Employers Screening Candidates via Social Networking Sites

The days of just needing a résumé and a cover letter are fading into the past. Today, these documents are joined by the growing phenomenon of social networking. In a June 2009 CareerBuilder survey, 45% of employers reported they use social networking sites to screen potential employees, compared to only 22% last year. Additionally, 11% plan to start using social networking as part of the screening process.

The most used websites included Facebook (29%), LinkedIn (26%), MySpace (21%), 11% search blogs and 7% follow candidates on Twitter.

While social networking is a great way to make connections with potential job opportunities, job seekers must insure they are using these sites to their advantage by conveying a professional image and underscoring their qualifications. Employers who use these sites are encouraged to hire candidates whose profiles include:

- Profile provides a good feel for the individual's personality and the fit within their organization
- Profile supports professional qualifications
- Candidate is creative
- Candidate shows solid communication skills
- Candidate is well-rounded
- Other people post good references about the individual
- Candidate received award and accolades

Why employers disregard candidates after screening online:

- Candidate posted provocative or inappropriate pictures or information
- Candidate posted content about them drinking or using drugs
- Candidate bad-mouthed their previous employer, co-workers or clients (continued on back)



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- Candidate showed poor communication skills
- Candidate made discriminatory comments
- Candidate lied about qualifications
- Candidate shared confidential information from a previous employer

5 Tips for job seekers to keep a positive image online:

1. Clean up digital dirt before you begin your job search, photos, contents and links that can work against you with employers
2. Consider creating your own professional group as it's a great way to establish relationships with leaders, recruiters and potential referrals
3. Keep gripes offline. If you appear to be positive and upbeat, you'll be much more appealing
4. Be selective about who you accept as friends and monitor their comments. If you need to block some, block them!
5. If you're still employed, don't mention your job search. There is the potential to be fired if your present employer finds out

18 Companies that are Presently Hiring

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|---|---|
| <p>1. A Wireless
 Industry: Telecommunications
 # of openings: 100
 Sample Job Titles: store manager, sales consultants, district managers, information technology, customer service
 Location: Nationwide</p> | <p>2. Accredo Health Group
 Industry: Specialized pharmacy and related services
 # of openings: 200
 Sample Job Titles: Pharmacists, pharmacy tech, nurses, customer service reps, patient care reps
 Location: Tennessee</p> |
| <p>3. All About Staffing
 Industry: Health care
 # of openings: 1,200
 Sample Job Titles: RN's, nurse directors, physical therapists, pharmacists, radiology techs, LPN's
 Location: Nationwide</p> | <p>4. American National Insurance Company
 Industry: Insurance
 # of openings: 250
 Sample Job Titles: insurance sales, insurance agents, general agents, outside sales
 Location: Nationwide</p> |
| <p>5. BBVA Compass Bank
 Industry: Banking and finance
 SJT: Loan specialists, commercial relationship managers, tellers
 # of openings: 50
 Location: Texas, Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Colorado, NM</p> | <p>6. Borders Group
 Industry: Retail
 SJT: General manager, store manager, retail associate
 # of openings: 100
 Location: Nationwide</p> |
| <p>7. CHRISTUS Health
 Industry: Healthcare
 SJT: RN, LPN, CNA, OT, med tech, pharmacist, collector coding specialist, monitor tech, rad tech, respiratory therapist
 # of openings: 1,000 (Alexandria, LA, Shreveport, LA)
 Location: San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Houston, Texas,</p> | <p>8. CSS USA, Inc.
 Industry: Security and emergency response officers
 SJT: ER armed security officers, ER project managers, logistics manager, ER food service directors, ER response project, assistant
 # of openings: 900
 Location: Nationwide</p> |
| <p>9. Durham School Services
 Industry: Transportation
 SJT: Bus drivers
 # of openings: 150
 Location: Nationwide</p> | <p>10. Extra Space Storage
 Industry: Self storage/property management
 SJT: store managers, property managers, customer service, consultants
 # of openings: 125
 Location: various-including NY, IL, AZ, GA</p> |
| <p>11. First Data
 Industry: Credit Card Processing
 SJT: product managers, pricing analysts
 # of openings: 50
 Location: Nationwide</p> | <p>12. Select Staffing
 Industry: Various
 SJT: loan processors, CSR, forklift operators, help desk tech, QCA, etc.
 # of openings: 11,895
 Location: Nationwide</p> |
| <p>13. Senior Living Communities
 Industry: Healthcare
 SJT: Home Health Aides, wellness coordinators, cooks, Maintenance tech, social workers, RN's
 # of openings: 86
 Location: NC, SC, Georgia and Florida</p> | <p>14. Superior Technical Resources
 Industry: Staffing
 SJT: Director of Compensation and Benefits, recruiters, database admin., NET developers, mechanical engineers
 # of openings: 716
 Location: Nationwide</p> |
| <p>15. Teavana
 Industry: Retail
 SJT: general managers, team leaders, team members, baristas
 # of openings: 250
 Location: Nationwide</p> | <p>16. Telerex
 Industry: Call Center
 SJT: CSR, data entry, operations managers, IT, finance, directors
 # of openings: 150
 Location: Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Texas</p> |
| <p>17. TESCO Technologies
 Industry: Wireless Technologies
 SJT: Sales manager, electrical engineer, accounts receivable rep
 # of openings: 50
 Location: Maryland, Nevada, Texas</p> | <p>18. Veolia Transportation
 Industry: Transit/transportation
 SJT: Bus drivers, mechanics, payroll accountants, safety managers, CSR
 # of openings: 150
 Location: Nationwide</p> |