

Events Calendar

The Oakland County Michigan Works! Business Services Team has been busy participating in various events throughout the region. Take a look below to see what we've been up to!

- 9.22.11 Magic Johnson Enterprises Job Fair
- 9.22.11 Automation Alley The Voice of Business - IT
- 10.14.11 Automation Alley Awards Gala
- 10.20.11 Michigan National Career Readiness Certificate Conference
- 10.25.11 City of Madison Heights Eat, Work, Love
- 10.26.11 Exploring Human Capital Needs of SE Michigan's Advanced Energy Sector
- 11.15.11 Southeast Michigan Talent Summit

The team also participated in 21st Century Business Services Network meetings and the Rapid Response and Career Transition Workgroups.
Upcoming events include:

- 2.7.12 Automation Alley IMPACT 2012
- 2.23.12 Oakland Job Hub Career Fair

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Job seeker receives On-the-Job training after unemployment



Laid off in February 2009, Dan DePue of Troy is back to work after participating in the On-the-Job Training (OJT) program through the Oak Park Career Center.

After struggling to find work for over two years, a Troy man is now gainfully employed, thanks to a collaborative effort of the Oakland County Business Services Team, and the On-the-Job Training (OJT) program, a federally-funded work experience program that helps workers transition to a new field or industry by providing an opportunity to "learn as they earn." OJT funds help employers defray costs incurred during the training process by providing case-by-case wage

reimbursement while the participant learns the skills necessary for the full and adequate performance of his or her new position.

With his unemployment checks exhausted and a family to support, Dan DePue was quickly running out of options. Laid off from his position as a salesperson from Showtime Carpet in February of 2009, DePue had been searching for jobs to no avail. He felt his diverse employment history was to blame. *...continued on Page 2*

An Employer's Perspective: Witzenmann USA Company utilizes BSP services, state and local resources for hiring project

JENNIFER DINA
Guest Writer, HR Administrator, Witzenmann USA

Witzenmann USA, a German-owned manufacturer of flexible exhaust system components, began working with Oakland County and the State of Michigan in the Spring of 2010 in an effort to secure a new facility site located in Troy.

With the opening of the new facility came an immediate need to identify and target qualified, skilled candidates to fill multiple openings.

Cheryl Schubeck, our local BSP at the Troy Career Center, offered and carried out a variety of services, including talent recruitment, posting positions on the Michigan Talent Bank (MTB), resume review

and even hosting a mini-job fair. Since June 2010, Schubeck has reviewed over 5,900 resumes on behalf of Witzenmann for positions such as Machine Technicians, Application Engineers, Sales Coordinators, etc.

To date, Witzenmann has hired 123 new employees, primarily utilizing the MTB resources for candidate recruitment.

Witzenmann continues to partner with the Troy Career Center to identify and hire qualified, local Michigan workers, and appreciates the valuable tools and services provided by Michigan Works! We look forward to a continued successful relationship in 2012.

Company selects Auburn Hills for world headquarters

A German manufacturing company selected Oakland County for the location of its world headquarters after an attraction effort by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and Oakland County Economic Development (OCED).

Weber Automotive, an automotive manufacturing company that engineers and assembles powertrain and body structures for vehicles, purchased a vacant building in Auburn Hills in September of 2010 with the intent to eventually employ up to 300 individuals at the location. Michele Eaton, Senior Business Development Representative with OCED, who assisted with the attraction project, contacted the Business Services Team at the Oak Park Career Center to initiate the recruitment process.

In December 2010, Laura Robb and fellow BSPs Patricia Edmonds and Sherry Kless, began a recruitment project which would take the initial staff of four employees to a staff of 76 and counting.

One employee identified through their recruitment efforts was Tony Sanders, who was soon hired as Weber Automotive's Human Resources Manager. Sanders continues to work with the Business Services Team as the company pursues its plans to hire up to 300 employees.

"The BSPs at the Oak Park Career Center helped us every step of the way," said Sanders. "We look forward to working closely as we continue our expansion."



Laura Robb, Oak Park (left) and Tony Sanders of Weber Automotive (center) worked together to fill over 70 open positions available with the company.

How did Michigan Works! assist Weber Automotive?

Michigan Works! BSPs helped recruit more than 76 employees. Here's how:

- Created an account on the Michigan Talent Bank (MTB) to post job opportunities and conduct key word searches to identify potential candidates in the system
- Acted as contact for 13 job postings, including CNC, Manufacturing Engineer, etc.

- Reviewed over 4,000 applications for skills matches and provided resumes of qualified candidates for company review
- Circulated job postings to an extensive network of BSPs and other agencies in Southeast Michigan utilizing social media

Michigan Works! connects worker to opportunity, cont.

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"My career background includes everything from CAD and carpet sales to set-up supervision of trade shows," said DePue. "Many companies misunderstood how all of these jobs could overlap and make a well-rounded employee. It may have appeared that I was unable to stick with one career path."

Unable to find work in familiar industries, DePue knew he had to explore his options to see what else he might be qualified to do. A family friend suggested he make an appointment with a Michigan Works! representative.

DePue met with Sarah Kropinski, a Training Specialist and Business Solutions Professional (BSP) at the Troy Career Center, in August of 2011. Evident that he was a skilled individual, Kropinski was confident that the BSP network could help find DePue gainful employment and presented his case at the Business Services Team meeting later that month. Sherry Kless, BSP at the Oak Park Career Center, suggested an OJT experience with a company she had been working with;

TrynEx International in Madison Heights.

The following month, September of 2011, DePue began an OJT experience (facilitated by Kless) with TrynEx International, a company that specializes in the development and manufacturing of commercial-based spreaders for snow and ice removal. DePue

completed 480 on-the-job training hours where he learned skills from quality control to forklift operation: all necessary components to the full and adequate performance of his position in Inbound Logistics.

DePue currently works as a Receiving and Inbound Logistics Representative for TrynEx International and continues to receive training from the company, including Lean manufacturing and Hi-Lo operation. He is very pleased with his OJT experience.

"I love my new position," said DePue. "I appreciate all of the help that Sarah [Kropinski] and Sherry [Kless] provided. I'm so thankful that Michigan Works! was able to bridge this gap in my life."

"I'm so thankful that Michigan Works! was able to help bridge this gap in my life." -Dan DePue

Business Solutions Professionals (BSPs), certified through Michigan State University's School of Human Resources and Labor Relations, are trained to work within a network of various organizations (including, but not limited to: Economic Development, Workforce Development and Education) to utilize each other's services and resources toward the betterment of the business community.

The goal of the Oakland County BSP network is to service as a portal to the wide range of programs and resources offered by our community partners and to help eliminate the red tape that prevents businesses from fully leveraging the available resources.