

CORD

---Collaborative Organizations Responding to Dislocation

April 1, 2010

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David Arndt



Kristy Homan



Michael Bachaus

E-HUB MEANS LOCAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

David Arndt wasn't exactly sure what business venture he wanted to get into after working for GM for 23 years. For Michael Bachaus, automotive repair has been his longtime interest, but to start his own business following GM's shutdown was quite intimidating. For both, the newly-offered E-Hub program has been the answer.

"They've covered things you never would have thought about," said Bachaus of Janesville, who plans on starting his business with his partner, Kristy Homan." They provide you with everything you need to develop your business plan," Bachaus said, "things you probably would never think about." He cited as an example a recent class where Milton City Manager Todd Schmidt spoke. "I would've never considered my business signs, but you need to clear regulations to ensure they meet ordinances," he said. "That's just one small item—there are literally dozens of those types of things you need to know when considering starting a business."

In fact, prior to the E-Hub classes when Michael went to a bank to try to secure a loan, they asked about his business plan and of course, he didn't have one. But E-Hub, which is designed to personally help each participant based on their interest and situation, is helping him to complete one.

CONTACTS ARE ONE THE BIGGEST ADVANTAGES OF THE E-HUB PROGRAM

David, a Beloit resident, isn't exactly sure yet what he'll do when he completes the E-Hub classes, but he wants to use his electrical skills. He worked at GM for 23 years, starting on the line but then earning his electrical apprenticeship and working in that field at GM for 18 years. He also has his degrees in both electronics and aviation electronics (avionics), both two-year programs, from Blackhawk Technical College. He finds the networking contacts to be one of the biggest advantages to the E-Hub program. He said the excitement of being in a program started by former Packer star Reggie White initially peaked his interest.

"This is different from regular classes," Arndt said. "Even though it is short-term, you put together enterprise teams and do your own work. The speakers come from real-world experience which really helps us," he added. He said the speakers and resources will help him in areas like maximizing the use of computers, utilizing web sites, advertising, insurance, avoiding lawsuits, protecting employees, and similar subjects. He is also impressed with the fact that you can call the speakers or even the national head of E-Hub, Mark Burwell, and they'll take the time to help you. "It's a very personal program," he said.

Michael's Case Manager, Ed Martinez, said Michael liked the idea that after completing E-Hub he will have more control over his future. "He mentioned to me that if he worked for an employer, his future would always be in their hands," Martinez said. "E-Hub will give him more control over setting up his own future."

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ENERGY ASSISTANCE FUNDS AVAILABLE

Energy assistance funds are still available for qualified individuals and families through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP). The program provides dollars to moderate and low income level households to help pay a portion of their winter gas or electric bills.

Qualified Wisconsin residents can apply through May 15, 2010

To obtain energy assistance, qualified Wisconsin residents can apply through **May 15, 2010**. Applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible by calling (608) 363-9200 (Energy Services, Inc. located at 118 Eclipse Center, Beloit). Their hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Appointments are preferred. There is also a satellite office located in Janesville. You can also visit <http://www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov> for information. Qualification for energy assistance is not based on whether someone is behind on their energy bills or rents versus owning a home.

Applicants must bring these items to the agency to determine eligibility:

Proof of income for all household members 18 years or older

Social Security cards for everyone in the household

Current energy bill

Rent certificate or statement from landlord confirming whether or not heat is included in rent payments

WHEAP payments depend upon household size, income level and home energy costs. The program helps households with incomes at or below 60% of the state median income pay for home energy costs. For example, a family of four which earns approximately \$45,000 annually or less, or a two-person family with earnings of about \$30,600 or less may qualify for energy assistance dollars.



You're never too old to learn skills on the computer, especially when searching for a job—it is now almost mandatory that you have basic skills!

DON'T FORGET—HEDBERG LIBRARY OFFERS ONLINE COMPUTER TUTORIALS

While almost all of the Arrowhead and area public libraries are excellent resources for computer classes, the Hedberg Public Library offers a number of online computer-related tutorials through their website.

These can be accessed from anywhere at any time, and allow job seekers (and anyone else) a chance to brush up on your computer skills or learn new programs and skills altogether. Among the online computer tutorials that can help you are:

- Learn to type
- Use a mouse
- Navigate Microsoft Word or Excel
- Maintain your computer
- And much more!!

These online tutorials are especially helpful if you can't make it to any of the free computer classes, or you just need a quick refresher. You can browse the list online to find fun and fast ways to sharpen your computer skills. Visit www.HedbergPublicLibrary.org/computer_tutorials.html or call (608) 758-6600.

E-HUB PROGRAM (Continued)

(Continued from Page 1)

Michael didn't have much time to consider whether he wanted to get involved in E-Hub. When his business partner Kristy contacted Forward Janesville regarding assistance with developing a business plan and structure, they were put in touch with Kaia Fowler of the UW-Whitewater Small Business Development Center, one of the co-sponsors of E-Hub along with the Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board (SWWDB). It just so happened the E-Hub classes were starting the next day.

"To say we were on the 'fast track' is an understatement," Kristy said. With her prior experience as a Warranty Administrator for Fagan's Automotive, Janesville and Michael's degree in Diesel Technology from BTC and prior experience as an auto technician, their future plan was fairly well laid out for them. In fact, Michael has been repairing cars on his own, but is looking to expand into either a leased or perhaps his own facility. "I'd eventually even like to have two or three employees," Michael said.

All three see E-Hub (short for Entrepreneurship Hub) as their ticket to a successful business venture. The six-week program offers three and half-hour classes once a week, with additional time set aside for one-on-one counseling and coaching of participants. For qualified dislocated workers, the SWWDB pays for the program. One group meets in Beloit, the other in Janesville, with each providing the flexibility of attending the other one if there happens to be a personal schedule conflict.

The next set of E-Hub classes start April 9 in Janesville and April 15 in Beloit. Those interested can contact SWWDB Business and Employment Services Manager Eric Kuznacic at (608) 741-3502 or e.kuznacic@swwdb.org or Kaia Fowler at (262) 472-3217 or fowlerk@uww.edu.



Kristi Homan and Michael Bachaus work on an auto at their home north of Janesville. They hope to utilize E-Hub to help them start their small business in auto repair and maintenance.

WORKSHOPS OFFERED TO HELP YOU BETTER MANAGE YOUR MONEY

Two workshops designed to help you better manage your money, make smart decisions when using credit, and help to avoid ID theft are being offered on Tuesday, April 20 in room K at the Rock County Job Center. The workshops are free and open to the public. One workshop is offered at 9 a.m., and a second at 1 p.m. Each session is expected to last between 90 minutes and two hours.

The workshops are being presented as a part of National Credit Education Week (April 19-23) and are being led by Karen Downs, a trainer certified by the Association of Credit and Collections Professionals International. Ms. Downs is employed by the State Collection Service, Madison. They also have a Beloit office.

Among the topics are:

- Money and credit management
- Smart credit card usage, including what to do if your card is stolen or lost
- How to write a check and balance/maintain an account
- How to protect against ID theft
- Building your credit score....and much more.

Ms. Downs will also bring along materials each participant can take home or refer to as they use the tips learned during the workshop. Plan on attending!

CHECK OUT THESE OPPORTUNITIES

There are several **Dislocated Worker** workshops that may be of interest to you (even if you are not in the WIA program—these are open to all). Call the Rock County Job Center for information or to schedule a session—Julie Funk at (608) 741-3462 or Carol Kohl at (608) 741-3418 or Susan at (608) 741-3447. In addition, Blackhawk Technical College is offering many classes—call 741-3566 for more details and a schedule.

- Resume 101 & Developing a Basic Resume** Thus., April 1, 8:30 a.m.-noon
- Job Center/Annex Closed—Good Friday** Fri., April 2
- Resume 201** Mon., April 5, 9-11 a.m.
- Choice, Change & Adjustment 101** Mon., Apr. 5, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Dislocated Worker Orientation** Mon., April 5, 10 a.m.-noon
- Resume 201—Annex** Tues., April 6, 2-4 p.m.
- Choice, Change & Adjustment 101** Wed., Apr. 7, 10 am-12:30 p.m.
- Work Search Using JCW** Wed., April 7, 9-11 a.m.
- Success Skills Training III** Fri., April 9, 8:30 a.m.-noon
- Career Assessment & Planning 201** Fri., April 9, 1-3:30 p.m.
- Java & Jobs—Annex** Fri., April 9, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
- Interview 201** Mon., April 12, 9-11 a.m.
- Choice, Change & Adjustment 101** Mon., April 12, 1-3:30 p.m.
- WIA/Future Trak** Mon., April 12, 1-4 p.m.
- Stretching Your Food Dollars** Tues., April 13, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- Interviewing 101—Annex** Tues., April 13, 10 a.m.-noon
- Interviewing 101** Wed., April 14, 1-3 p.m.
- Things To Do When the Paycheck Stops** Wed., April 14, 2-4 p.m.
- Educational Options** Thus., April 15, 2-3 p.m.
- Java & Jobs—Annex** Fri., April 16, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
- Success Skills Training I** Fri., April 16, 8:30 a.m.-noon
- Resume 201** Mon., April 19, 9-11 a.m.
- Choice, Change & Adjustment 101** Mon., Apr. 19, 10 am-12:30 p.m.
- Using Monster.com—Annex** Mon., April 19, 1-3 p.m.
- Career Assessment & Planning 201** Tues., April 20, 9-11:30 a.m.
- Resume 101—Annex** Tues., April 20, 9-11 a.m.
- Resume 101** Wed., April 21, 1-4 p.m.
- Dislocated Worker Orientation** Wed., April 21, 1-3 p.m.
- Success Skills Training II** Fri., April 23, 8:30 a.m.-noon
- Java & Jobs—Annex** Fri., April 23, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
- Resume 201** Mon., April 26, 9-11 a.m.
- Choice, Change & Adjustment 101** Mon., April 26, 1-3:30 p.m.
- Career Assessment & Planning 201** Tues., April 27, 9-11:30 a.m.
- Interviewing 201—Annex** Tues., April 27, 1-3 p.m.
- WIA/Future Trak** Wed., April 28, 9 a.m.-noon
- Career Assessment & Planning 201** Wed., April 28, 2-4:30 p.m.
- Success Skills Training III** Fri., April 30, 8:30 a.m.-noon
- Java & Jobs—Annex** Fri., April 30, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The small act of paying attention can take you a long way.”
 ---Keanu Reeves

The CORD newsletter is designed to provide helpful information and tips to area dislocated workers. Have comments or ideas for stories?

Contact the editor:

Gregg Bosak, SWWDB, Rock County Job Center, g.bosak@swwdb.org or call (608) 741-3463