

CORD

---Collaborative Organizations Responding to Dislocation

August 1, 2009

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"In construction, men held more than 87% of the jobs...in manufacturing, it was over 71%."

MALES HIT HARD BY ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

While the economic crisis has hit almost every family in some way, statistics show that males have directly been affected the most. That's not to say females haven't felt the impact—they most certainly have. But there has been a disproportionate number of men who have been laid off, which has affected roles and relationships at home more than at any other time in America's past, save for the great depression.

Since December, 2007, four out of every five jobs lost were held by men, which translates to about 4.56 million workers. Fewer men—68.2 percent as of March, 2009—are at work than at any other point since the government started keeping statistics. In the mean time, the gap between the male and female unemployment rate (9.4 versus 7.1 percent) is rising, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Of course, drastic cuts in the manufacturing and construction industries, which are male-dominated, can help explain some of these statistics. For example, in construction, men held more than 87 percent of the jobs at the end of 2007—in manufacturing it was over 71 percent. These two sectors alone have seen more than 2 million jobs lost. But even outside of these sectors, men have lost twice as many jobs as women.

Unfortunately, the percentage of men giving up on the job search has also risen sharply. Since December, 2007, the male unemployment rate (the percentage of people who are looking for, but have not yet found, work) has steadily increased, hitting 9.4 percent in April, 2009. The number of men who have gone from the 'unemployed' category to not looking for work at all has also steadily grown.

The good news is that women's involvement in the workplace has steadily increased since the 1950s. Although they still earn on average 80 cents to every dollar earned by a man, more than a quarter of women in dual-earning couples make substantially more than their partner. In some cases, that 'second income' has allowed those families to survive. It has also instigated a drastic change in the roles of the father/mother. Some families have made these adjustments smoothly--for others, it has been difficult.

The main thing is that spouses need to support one another in these tough economic times. It means changing roles—who earns the income, who picks up the kids or gets them to practice/games, who does the shopping or washes the dishes. More than ever, it takes teamwork, support and understanding for families to survive this crisis. And because of the disproportionate number of men affected by these job losses, it means they must be the leaders and possess the flexibility in helping to make these positive changes.

"There are many adults who are out of work and want to transition into second careers, with the internships providing an entry into their selected field."



Check out the web sites listed to the right that can assist you in various ways—locating potential employment, communicating and networking, and other methods to help yourself

INTERNSHIPS—IT'S NOT JUST FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS ANYMORE!

As the recession has grown, the need for non-traditional internships has increased, with more and more adults taking advantage. Lauren Berger, founder of InternQueen.com, a website devoted to college internships, says there are many adults who are out of work and want to transition into second careers, with the internships providing an entry into their selected field, a way to learn to learn about a new industry.

Although it is a relatively new concept, with most internships catering to the college crowd, Berger is seeing more adults submitting resumes. She has started to pass them on to companies offering "alternative internships." Examples of businesses that have hired adult interns include the Sara Lee Corp., Downers Grove, IL, which launched a "returnship" program and hired 10 adults for three to six months. Others have included Babyboomers.TV, a website start-up company (which offers weekly stipends), and NY banking firm Goldman Sachs. Since generally the Midwest is months behind the coasts in new and innovative programs, look for these types of programs to perhaps (and hopefully) catch on in the Midwest very soon.

Problems that must be overcome include the many companies that don't want to even consider adults (sometimes due to company policy or the fact that adults don't receive 'credit' as college students do), plus adults often feel a sense of entitlement and may not want to perform basic tasks. Smaller start-up companies which can benefit from the previous knowledge, skills and experience of an older worker seem to be the ones with the most interest in developing an adult internship program, according to Berger.

While internships don't always translate directly into a job, many times they do, and if not, the skills gained by the intern can do nothing but help on a resume. According to Babyboomers.TV content manager Nancy Valene, hiring an intern is "a great way to test-drive somebody without investing huge salary benefits in them."

HELPFUL WEB SITES

While there are numerous web sites that can offer assistance to the unemployed, here are a few that we recently ran across that can offer valuable help (thanks to Eric Kuznacik for these suggestions):

- There is a segment on *At Issue With Ben Merens* on Wisconsin Public Radio titled *The Job Line*, on which job-seekers can call in to promote their skills. Also certain employers are featured. The link is <http://wpr.org/merens/jobline.cfm>
- Tips for job seekers and employment strategies can be located through Joel Dresang and the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* at <http://www.jsonline.com/blogs/business/WorkinProgress.html>
- Ed Martinez says this is a "one stop guide" that links workers to our area's resources as well as offering the opportunity to talk to others and share— <http://www.unemploymentlifeline.com>
- The Wisconsin Realtors Association has a "foreclosure toolkit" at www.wisconsinforeclosurekit.org
- debtinfocus.com (no www in front) offers another financial resource

PRE-ASSESSMENT WORKSHOPS

Friday, **August 7**, 10 a.m.-noon, Room J

Monday, **August 10**, 4-6 p.m., Room D/E

Friday, **August 21**, 2-4 p.m., Room J

Monday, **August 31**, 10 a.m.-noon, Classroom C

CLASSES DESIGNED TO HELP YOU!

Listed on the back page of this newsletter are varied and numerous classes offered at the Rock County Job Center/Annex. However, these are just some of the classes being offered of which you can take full advantage. Check 'em out!

In addition, the Hedberg Public Library, 316 S. Main St., Janesville is also offering several free adult computer classes (Woodruff Training Room). They are 90 minutes long, with registration required at least 48 hours in advance. Register at the Service Desk or by calling 758-6600. (Classes are cancelled 24 hours ahead if not enough people are registered).

E-Mail Basics with E-Mail Setup—Tuesday., August 4, 1:30 p.m.

Introduction to Computers—Tuesday., August 4, 4 p.m.

Word Processing Basics—Wednesday, August 5, 9:15 a.m.

Operating with Windows XP—Monday, August 10, 9:15 a.m.

Spreadsheet Basics—Monday, August 10, 11 a.m.

Using RockCat—Wednesday, August 19, 9:15 a.m.

Internet Basics with Online Forms—Wednesday, August 19, 11 a.m.

Searching The Internet—Wednesday, August 26, 9:15 a.m.

SAVE THE DATE—SEPTEMBER 14

A **Service Provider Fair**, connecting agencies to the community, is set for Monday, September 14, 2009 at the Rock County Job Center. You can come and learn how to navigate the service provider world. Sponsored by the Homeless Intervention Taskforce, it will be held in room K from 2:30-4:30 p.m. More details and information will follow in the next CORD newsletter. Mark the date down now, and plan to attend.

PRIOR CORD NEWSLETTERS AVAILABLE

If you'd like to view previous issues of the CORD Newsletter, go to the Southwest Workforce Development Board site at www.swwdb.org.



Computer classes are offered at regular intervals and several levels to help you prepare for improve your methods for that job search

CHECK OUT THESE OPPORTUNITIES

There are several **Dislocated Worker** group sessions that may be of interest to you. 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. (For class descriptions, see the July issue of the CORD Newsletter).

Jumpstart Your Job Search	Mon., August 3, 1-2:30 p.m.--Annex
Things To Do When the Paycheck Stops	Tues., August 4, 9-10:30 a.m.--Annex
Jumpstart Your Job Search	Mon., August 10, 1-2:30 p.m.--Annex
Getting Through the Tough Times	Thus., August 13, 1-2:30 p.m.—Rm. C
Jumpstart Your Job Search	Mon., August 17, 1-2:30 p.m.--Annex
Things To Do When the Paycheck Stops	Tues., August 18, 9-10:30 a.m.-Rm. H
Jumpstart Your Job Search	Mon., August 24, 1-2:30 p.m.--Annex
Getting Through the Tough Times	Thus., August 27, 1-2:30 p.m.—Rm. C
Jumpstart Your Job Search	Mon., August 31, 1-2:30 p.m.--Annex

In addition, several Computer classes are being offered throughout the month at various times as follows:

- Mon, August 3, **Basic Computer**—10-noon, Room A
- Mon., August 3, **Introductory Powerpoint**--1-3 p.m., Room A
- Tues., August 4, **Basic E-Mail**—1-3 p.m., Room A
- Tues., August 4, **Internet Searches**—2-4 p.m., Annex
- Weds., August 5, **Introductory Excel**—9-11 a.m., Room A
- Thus., August 6, **Introductory Word**—10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room A
- Mon., August 10, **Typing**—10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room A
- Tues., August 11, **Typing**—10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room A
- Tues., August 11, **Advanced Excel**—1-3 p.m., Room A
- Weds., August 12, **Typing**—10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room A
- Weds., August 12, **Advanced Word**—1-3 p.m., Room A
- Thus., August 13, **Typing**—10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room A
- Thus., August 13, **Advanced Powerpoint**—2-4 p.m., Room A
- Fri., August 14, **Typing**—10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room A
- Mon., August 17, **Internet Searches**—9-11 a.m., Room A
- Mon., August 17, **Introductory Word**—1-3 p.m., Room A
- Tues., August 18, **Basic Computer**—1-3 p.m., Room A
- Weds., August 19, **Introductory Powerpoint**—9-11 a.m., Room A
- Thus., August 20, **Introductory Excel**—1-3 p.m., Room A
- Fri., August 21, **Basic E-Mail**—9-11 a.m., Room A
- Mon., August 24, **Advanced Word**—9-11 a.m., Annex
- Mon., August 24, **Typing**—2-4:30 p.m., Annex
- Tues., August 25, **Typing**—2-4:30 p.m., Annex
- Weds., August 26, **Advanced Excel**—9-11 a.m., Room A
- Weds., August 26, **Typing**—2-4:30 p.m., Annex
- Thus., Aug. 27, **Advanced Powerpoint**—10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Rm A
- Thus., August 27, **Internet Searches**—1-3 p.m., Room A
- Fri., August 28, **Typing**—2-4:30 p.m., Annex

Dislocated Worker Orientation Sessions

- Weds., August 5, 2-4 p.m., Room D/E
- Mon., August 10, 9-11 a.m., Annex
- Fri., August 21, 1-3 p.m., Room D/E
- Weds., August 26, 4-6 p.m., Annex

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

“A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort.”

---Herm Albright