

June 1, 2011

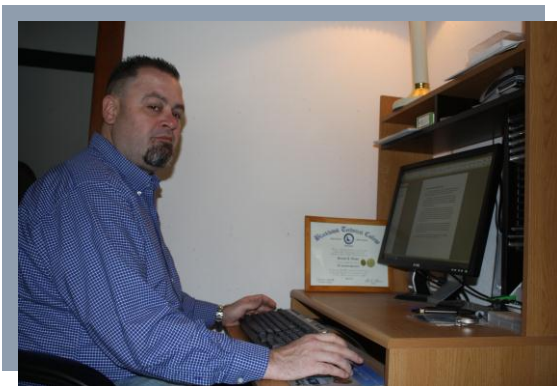
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RELOCATION NOT AN OPTION FOR JEREMY TORPY

When GM offered Jeremy Torpy a chance to relocate to keep his position with them, he didn't hesitate. "I love the change of the seasons and rather than move south (where all the GM plants were), I would only consider possibly going north," he said. "So it was time to part ways with GM."

Instead, he opted to return to school to train in Blackhawk Technical College's Information Technology-Networking program, where he graduated in May of 2010. It led to his being hired by TDS Telecom in Monroe, WI, where he started his three-week training period on April 18. "I thought returning to school would be a major adjustment, but it really wasn't," he said. "I progressed very well through all the classes and enjoyed the challenge."



Jeremy Torpy works on his computer at home, preparing for his TDS position in Monroe.

The 39-year-old Torpy, who is engaged, spent 13 years at GM. Prior to that he worked at Happy Joe's from 1991-97. While his new job at TDS doesn't pay as much as the GM position, he does have excellent advancement opportunities and benefits. He'll start out on the telephone help desk as a customer repair advisor, handling problems with dial-up internet and similar problems. He'll then move on to DSL and cable training. "This is a perfect starting position," he stated. "A friend of mine started in the same position and quickly worked his way to other positions with companies like Mercy and the Rock County IT department."

Dislocated Worker program funds assisted Jeremy to attend school, covering the majority of his tuition and book costs. He used only 11 weeks of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefits this year. "Everything in the process worked very well," he said, adding that the career readiness certifications and services at the Job Center allowed him to achieve success with few problems. He located the TDS position on the Job Center of Wisconsin web site.

And that allowed him to stay in the area he loves without having to move. "I'm grateful for all of the support I received," he added. "I couldn't have asked for anything more."

WILSON COMBINES MECHANICAL DESIGN, BUSINESS CLASSES INTO NEW CAREER

"It wouldn't have been possible to complete these classes without the TRA and Dislocated Worker funds."

---Ryan Wilson



When 35-year-old Ryan Wilson of Janesville lost his job when the Beloit Corporation closed its doors in 1999, he returned to school at Blackhawk Technical College (BTC), earning his associate degree in Mechanical Design and was soon hired by Sundstrand. When Sundstrand laid him off in 2009, he again returned to school, this time at Upper Iowa University's campus at BTC, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Management. That effort landed him a job at Ingersoll Milling, Rockford, a place he hopes will provide more occupational longevity than the prior two. He is a Mechanical Engineer there.

"It wouldn't have been possible to complete these classes without the TRA and Dislocated Worker funds," he said. The Trade Readjustment Act funds helped him when the Beloit Corp went bankrupt, and the WIA Dislocated Worker funds helped him to attend Upper Iowa, which was critical since he is supporting a wife and two children. Despite the obstacles, Ryan has not missed a class and has maintained a 3.75 Grade Point Average (GPA). He has also received some support from the companies when returning to the classroom.

"By combining engineering and business classes, I believe it makes me marketable as far as potential jobs," Ryan explained. He said he's not sure if he'll continue on to further education, but his background and experience should serve him well in his current job. He's hopeful there will not be any further layoffs or plant closures, but if it should happen again, his background and diversity should make him a very desirable candidate. "I like my job at Ingersoll," he added. "I'm hopeful they will continue to be busy [as they are now] long into the future."

MONEY TIGHT? CALL FOODSHARE!!

If making ends meet is becoming more and more difficult, consider applying for **Foodshare** benefits. Call either 1-877-FOOD-635 [1-877-366-3636] or better yet contact Rachael Sheets at the Rock County Job Center. Her number is (608) 216-7227 or (608) 630-1181. She can let you know if you are eligible and inform you what the program is all about.



Foodshare is a tax-funded food assistance program that can be used temporarily or as a long-term program for as long as you need it. Every month money is deposited on a debit-like QUEST card (see sample card at left), which can be used at most grocery stores to buy food to your taste. Unused benefits roll over to the next month.

Call today and make an appointment with Rachael!



INSURANCE COSTS CAN BE CONTROLLED (Part 1)

When your income is reduced (and even when it is not), insurance is something where substantial savings can occur. That's not to say you can or should avoid having adequate insurance, but a review of your current insurance policies and needs can yield some savings.

First, determine your highest priority insurance needs and contact your company before payment is due, requesting a different payment plan or even lower premiums or higher deductibles which will allow you to keep necessary coverage. And don't be hesitant to compare companies to see which may offer lower rates (on comparable plans). Currently insurance companies are having 'price wars,' competing for your dollars. Take advantage of that!

Health Insurance

Even if you're no longer employed, you still have options for coverage. Of course, if your spouse is covered and has access to a group insurance plan, that would be the best way to proceed. If you had insurance through your former employer, it may merit checking out whether you could continue or convert your insurance and at what cost. If individual coverage is your only option, be sure to shop around and compare costs and coverages. If the policy is too expensive, investigate buying insurance through a common-interest group like a professional group, managed care, etc. Group coverage is almost always less expensive than individual coverage. Also don't forget public health services for the disabled, children, pregnant, seniors, etc. Your limited income may also qualify you for Medicaid or Badgercare. Call (800) 362-3002 or visit their website at www.dhfs.state.wi.us. There may also be low-cost or free clinics available.

Vehicle Insurance

In Wisconsin, you must have either insurance or enough money to pay for damages caused to others. If you don't have insurance, the courts can seize anything of value you own. Vehicle liability insurance pays for claims others make as well as legal fees. This includes bodily injury, property damage, and uninsured motorist coverage. It also includes collision coverage (paying for damages to your vehicle) and comprehensive coverage (paying for damage to your vehicle from almost all other causes). If your vehicle's value is so low that it wouldn't pay to replace it, you could consider dropping collision or comprehensive, saving money. Vehicle insurance is a prime area where cost comparison could save you money (you see the ads on TV all the time—Geico, Farmers, Allstate, Progressive, etc.) Ask about special categories (good students, non-smokers, driver ed training, good driving records, etc.).

Homeowners' or Renters' Insurance

These protect you from property loss and liability costs. Most include replacement cost coverage on the unit and actual cost value on contents. Note that replacement cost is different from market value—the price of your home and land if you were to sell it. Try to save money lowering premium costs, but be aware of under-insuring your home or personal property.

(Note: This article will be continued in the July issue with other insurance categories and topics such as life insurance, insurance you may not need and resources to help you make informed decisions. Watch for that issue).



Vehicle insurance is a prime area where cost comparison could save you money.

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, Carol Kohl at (608) 741-3418 or Jenn Coppernoll (for FutureTrac or DW Orientation workshops) at (608) 741-3511.

All Classes listed here are at the Rock County Job Center unless noted

Choice, Change & Adjustment	Wed., June 1, 1-3:30 p.m., Rm. C
Job Club	Wed., June 1, 1:30-3 p.m., Rm. C
REE Boot	Thu., June 2, 9 a.m.-noon, Rm. B
Success Skills Training I	Fri., June 3, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Rm. J
Java & Jobs (WIA Clients Only)	Fri., June 3, 9:30 a.m.-noon, Annx
Job Club	Mon., June 6, 8:30-10 a.m., Rm. C
Choice, Change & Adjustment	Mon., June 6, 9-11:30 a.m., Rm. B
Resume	Mon., June 6, 10 a.m.-noon, Rm. C
Ability Profiler	Tue., June 7, 12:30-4:30 p.m., Rm. B
REE Boot	Tue., June 7, 9 a.m.-noon, Rm. B
FutureTrac	Tue., June 7, 1-4 p.m., Rm. J
Job Club	Wed., June 8, 1:30-3 p.m., Rm. C
REE Boot	Thu., June 9, 9 a.m.-noon, Rm. B
Success Skills Training II	Fri., June 10, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Rm. J
Java & Jobs (WIA Clients Only)	Fri., June 10, 9:30 a.m.-noon, Annx
Interviewing	Mon., June 13, 10 am-noon, Rm C
Choice, Change & Adjustment	Mon., June 13, 1-3:30 p.m., Rm. C
Job Club	Mon., June 13, 8:30-10 a.m., Rm. C
Dislocated Worker Orientation	Mon., June 13, 10-11:30 am, Rm. K
REE Boot	Tue., June 14, 9 a.m.-noon, Rm. B
Ability Profiler	Tue., June 14, 12:30-4:30 pm, Rm. B
Job Club	Wed., June 15, 1:30-3 p.m., Rm. C
Choice, Change & Adjustment	Wed., June 15, 9-11:30 a.m., Rm. H
Educational Options	Wed., June 15, 2-3 p.m., Rm. J
REE Boot	Thu., June 16, 9 a.m.-noon, Rm. B
Java & Jobs (WIA Clients Only)	Fri., June 17, 9:30 a.m.-noon, Annx.
Job Club	Mon., June 20, 8:30-10 a.m., Rm. C
Resume	Mon., June 20, 10 am-noon, Rm. C
Choice, Change & Adjustment	Mon., June 20, 1-3:30 p.m., Rm. C
REE Boot	Tue., June 21, 9 a.m.-noon, Rm. B
Ability Profiler	Tue., June 21, 12:30-4:30 pm, Rm. B
Job Club	Wed., June 22, 1:30-3 p.m., Rm. C
FutureTrac	Wed., June 22, 10 am-1 pm, Rm. J
REE Boot	Thu., June 23, 9 a.m.-noon, Rm. B
Success Skills Training III	Fri., June 24, 8:30-noon, Rm. J
Java & Jobs (WIA Clients Only)	Fri., June 24, 9:30 a.m.-noon, Annx
Interviewing	Mon., June 27, 10 am-noon, Rm. C
Job Club	Mon., June 27, 8:30-10 a.m., Rm. C
REE Boot	Tue., June 28, 9-11 a.m., Rm. B
Ability Profiler	Tue., June 28, 12:30-4:30 pm, Rm. B
Dislocated Worker Orientation	Wed., June 29, 1-2:30 p.m., Rm. J
Choice, Change & Adjustment 101	Wed., June 29, 9-11:30 a.m., Rm. J
Job Club	Wed., June 29, 1:30-3 p.m., Rm. C
REE Boot	Thu., June 30, 9 a.m.-noon, Rm. B

JUNE 2011

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Life is half spent before we know what it is.”

---George Herbert

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

Contact the editor:

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or call (608) 741-3463