

Success in Louisiana

A Story of Real Collaboration with Workforce Investment System!!

Training Louisiana Workforce

Louisiana Technical College Region 8

Ouachita Workforce Investment Board



Overview of Presentation

- Presentation team
- Snapshot of the College's region
- College Services
- WIB Services
- Development and Implementation of collaboration to address the economic recovery of Northeast Louisiana Delta Region



Northeast Louisiana – Region 8



Louisiana Technical College – Region 8

- Campuses – 8 sites
- Enrollment - Fall 2009 (2,580 credit students); 13.5% increase from Fall 2008
- Programs – 22 (certificate, diploma, and or AAS degree)
- Workforce Training Programs – customized training for business partners, specialty courses that lead to industry recognized credentials, and continuing education courses
- Partnership with WIB Boards in the Region and Economic Development Programs



Workforce Investment Board

- Relationship with the LA Workforce Commission
- Management and Structure of local board
- Career Solutions Center
 - Structure
 - Adult Services
 - Youth Services



ARRA Accountability Standards

- Serve dislocated workers, under-employed, unemployed, low-skilled workers
- Local Plan developed and submitted to the LA Workforce Commission within 90 days of the President signing the law
- Reports were submitted weekly initially; now quarterly through the LA Workforce Commission
- New website – Recovery.gov used for reporting progress



ARRA Plan

- Local ARRA Priorities
 - Occupational demand
 - Capacity of Training Providers
- Development of ARRA Plan with training partners
- Louisiana Workforce Commission ARRA Plan submitted to US Department of Labor



ARRA Investment Strategy

- Development of priorities to meet the need of workers and business community
- Resources offered by LA Technical College
- Focus of training
 - High demand jobs
 - Meaningful training that could lead to career paths in targeted clusters



Training Activities

- Targeted Population
 - Youth – 17 to 24 years old
 - Adults - 18 years and older
- Targeted sectors
 - Health Care – largest employment sector in the region
 - Construction – new jobs expected to come with recovery projects
 - Retail – Ouachita Parish is the retail hub for the region which includes small cities in Mississippi and Arkansas



Training Programs

- **Health Care – Pharmacy Tech**
 - 200+ inquires
 - 4 orientation sessions; 150 attendees
- **Construction – Youthbuild Model**
 - Partnered with local training center and Habitat for Humanity affiliate
 - 21 youth selected by Youth Program Coordinator and staff
- **Customer Service Training – National Retail Federation Training**
 - WIB Career Coach identified unemployed workers in need of additional training or bridge training



Nuts and Bolts

- Decided on focus of the training TOGETHER
 - Requirements guided by ARRA rules: training had to be short-term, lead to jobs or career paths needed for recovery or in demand, provide meaningful training for youth
- Recruited other partners
 - Whittley Life Skills Center
 - Boston Reed College
- Collaborated on every aspect of the project
 - Marketing – WIB, LTC Partner College
 - Recruitment activities - Regional
 - Application process



Solutions that work.



Strategies for Success

- **One common philosophy points toward the three components necessary for team success:**
 - A goal that is clear, significant and embraced by all members
 - Members who are competent in the behavioral and technical requirements of the team effort
 - Ability of the members to work together effectively and collaboratively
- Be HONEST with team members
- Know the RULES – had to adhere to ARRA
- Be FLEXIBLE
- FOLLOW-UP



Lessons Learned

- Be responsive –do not respond with traditional answers
- Open to change – recovery versus stimulus
- Focus on the regional need
- Not all students are suited for short-term, demanding and or challenging college level training!!
- Communicate openly with the staff doing the work
- Discuss successes and challenges often
- Document, document, document



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