

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Making A Difference 2**

**The Job Connection 3**

**Unemployment By the Numbers December 2009**

National Unemployment **9.7%**

California Unemployment **12.1%**

Riverside County Unemployment **14.3%**

San Bernardino County Unemployment **13.6%**

## Riverside County Workforce Investment Board Goes Green!



**T**HE RIVERSIDE COUNTY Workforce Investment Board (WIB) has embarked on the *"Green Journey."* At last year's Holiday WIB meeting, the Green Valley Initiative recognized the Board for its commitment to a more sustainable future for the Inland Empire. This promise is demonstrated through their educational partnerships and financial support for green jobs training in renewable energies, solar

photovoltaic and wind power systems, alternative fuel vehicle maintenance, home weatherization and more.

The WIB continues to develop, sustain, and strengthen its partnerships to provide

job seekers opportunities to enhance their skills that will be useful in green industries.

One such initiative began with the wind turbine training class of October 2009. Approximately 15 students attended the course at the College of the Desert in Coachella Valley completing 208 hours of classroom instruction (equal to 268-hour sessions). One hundred percent of the students in the program graduated. The upcoming class is already full and a third is set to begin March 15.

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*"Our Workforce Development Centers remain committed to providing an environment that promotes the linkage of the local workforce community, businesses and local resources through the support of community partners."*



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## Riverside County Workforce Investment Board Goes Green! [ CONTINUED ]

### GOING FOR THE GREEN

**A** "GREEN ZONE" HAS BEEN SETUP in the eastern region of Riverside County. Renova Energy, UC Riverside Extension, and the Workforce Development Center have successfully concluded their first solar boot

camp, taking an important step toward a **"Green Economy"** in the Coachella Valley. With an ever increasing need for green collar workers, the camp educates and trains future solar industry jobseekers by providing classroom and hands-on training to ensure students are ready to compete for solar employment in various alternative utility companies. **WI**



*A diverse group of students learn more about things going green.*



## Making A Difference!

### ***New Job and Car Donation Puts Determined Woman In the Driver's Seat***

**T**HE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD (WIB) continues to provide "Infinite Opportunity, Lasting Prosperity" through On-the-Job Training (OJT) Opportunities. One awesome success story demonstrates the WIB's strong partnership with education and business through the recent placement of **Ms.**

**Ashley Suiter.** A donated and refurbished 2007 Toyota Camry and a new job have transformed Ashley Suiter's life.

Suiter, a single mother who was on welfare for three years, is now a travel trainer with Blindness Support Services, Inc. (BSS) in Riverside where she teaches people with disabilities how to travel on public transportation. Suiter had volunteered with the BSS through the Volunteer Center of Riverside County where she put in more hours than were required. She received on-the-job training through the County's workforce development system.



*From L to R: Marie Turner with AAA So. Cal., Ashley Suiter, Ben Clymer, Sr. with Ben Clymer's The Body Shop.*

## Making A Difference!

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As Suiter was making a better life for herself in a challenging economy, community members were looking to help someone through a benevolence car program, where a car is refurbished and given to someone in need.



Center of Riverside County to find a deserving recipient.

"It's changed my life," Suiter said of receiving

AkzoNobel, a car paint distributor, approached Ben Clymer's The Body Shop about the program and they soon solicited a car from AAA of Southern California. Toyota of Riverside, Precision Glass and Tap's Automotive worked together to restore the vehicle. Riverside Mayor Ron Loveridge directed the businesses to the Volunteer

the car. Now, she says she can easily make trips to get groceries or pick up her children without having to worry about transportation. And with her new job, she is better able to provide for her children and has a higher self-esteem.

"It was hard to describe the feeling that we all received to watch Ashley's tears of joy when she was handed her keys and knew she would no longer have to rely on others for her basics needs," said Ben Clymer, Jr. **WI**

## The Job Connection

### ASSEMBLYMAN V. MANUEL PEREZ SUPPORTS AREA JOB SEEKERS

**ON** AUGUST 29, 2009, the Workforce Development Center of Indio joined forces with V. Manuel Perez who represents the 80th Assembly District of the State of California for a "Job and Career Fair" at Cathedral City High School. Over 30 businesses were represented and approximately 1,500 jobseekers attended.

Cathedral City Mayor Pro-Tem Charles "Bud" England welcomed the crowd and introduced Assemblyman Perez who led a panel discussion on **"The Green Economy."** Panel members included Larry McLaughlin, Director of Advance Transportation Technology and Energy for the College of the Desert, Brian Koenig of Cal Energy Geo Thermal and Robert Frost of the



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). The panel responded to a host of questions regarding information presented on new green energy initiatives for businesses and jobseekers.

Following the panel discussion, workshops were conducted by Jonnetta

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*Preparing  
Today's  
Workforce  
For  
Tomorrow's  
Jobs*

## The Job Connection

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Chambers, M.A. of California State University San Bernardino. The workshops consisted of two parts: Resume Writing Skills and

Interviewing Techniques. Ms. Chambers' engaging style and extensive experience in the field of recruitment and human resources provided attendees with a wealth of information and situational examples. Individuals left the workshops with many inside tips on landing that next great job. Businesses were equally pleased with the event. A Palm Springs Follies representative said, "It was a very good day, very good applications, and we will now be interviewing 20-25 candidates for 10-12 immediate new hires." **WI**



### CONGRESSWOMAN BONO MACK HOST INDIO JOB FAIR

ON NOVEMBER 13, 2009, Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack hosted a job fair at the Indio Workforce Development Center (WDC) emphasizing the importance of expanding opportunities for job seekers and local businesses. Approximately 800 job seekers attended the event to learn more about jobs



that were available and services provided at the WDC.

Prior to the fair, one hundred enrolled WDC members participated in a preparatory workshop on interviewing techniques. Those members were also the first ones to meet with the 24 employers from various industries such as service and hospitality, healthcare, care-giving, as well as communications, security and the military. **WI**



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