



SPRINGBOARD NEWSLETTER

January 2008



Career Transition

Workshop begins January 28th.

The Career Transitions three half-day sessions are designed to help you determine your next step career direction.

Spouses welcome!



FROM THE DESK OF G-P'S PEER OUTREACH WORKERS

First off we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. If you are home wondering what's next, now that GP is no longer running, here are a few things you should take care of:

The first thing you need to do is make sure that you have signed up for your dislocated workers benefits. If you have, your next step is to meet with a counselor. You will meet with Daniel Reedman (360) 676-3242 or Rich Sandeen (360) 676-3217 for dislocated worker stuff. If you were approved for Trade Act Benefits (NAFTA) a few years ago you will go directly to the Trade Act counselors Erika Smith (360) 676-3238 or Shawn Brookshire (360) 676-3247.

If you are unsure if you have an old NAFTA certificate give Juan or Loni a call at the Peer Outreach offices and we will look it up for you. If you have any question regarding dislocated workers, Trade Act or even Unemployment benefits you and your spouses are welcome to the drop in sessions every Friday from 2-4. If you can not make it to a drop in session you can set private appointments with your counselor Mon-Fri at WorkSource or feel free to stop by the Peer Outreach office.

Computers are available in the Peer Outreach offices from 7-4:30 Mon-Fri.

Continued on reverse...

CAREER TRANSITION

Facing the future after a layoff can be a challenge. Career Transition is designed to help you get back on your feet. Discover your options, develop a plan of action, and gain the skills and tools you need to move forward. The Career Transitions workshop has three half-day sessions designed to help you determine your next step career direction.

Workshop Dates/Times:

Monday, January 28 th	1:30-4:30
Wednesday, January 30 th	1:30-4:30
Thursday, January 31 st	9:00-11:30

The first session provides information on **Surviving a Layoff**. The second session is an in-depth assessment of your interests, work values, skills and goals. The final session will interpret your personal assessment results as they relate to a new career and employment plan.

Do not miss out! Class begins Monday, January 28th. **Registration is required**, call: (360) 676-3212.

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

As the new year rings in with mixed emotions, it is a good time to reflect on your strengths and accomplishments and prepare for the future. What have you always wanted to do, but never had the chance? What skills, experience, and interests do you have that can be developed into your next job?

Determine where you want to be in the next several years and begin to

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develop a step-by-step plan of action. It is important to get support for your plan with hard facts. Look at your desired job and industry to get a realistic view of the current openings and wages.

WorkSource Whatcom has many free tools, seminars, and other resources that can help you:

- Analyze your skills and interests and discover career options;
- Determine the number of openings, current wages, and training required for your new career choice;
- Tap into programs and funding sources available to help you find a job or change careers.

GREAT NEWS!!!

The Trade Act Petition has been accepted.

We are now Trade Act certified.

Everyone (hourly and salary) that lost their job when the mill closed is covered by the Trade Act certification.

We are working with Olympia Trade Act Division to set up a series of information meetings so ALL of your benefits can be explained to you.

Everyone will be mailed a notice to attend one of these meetings. Dates/times/location will be included. Spouses and partners are welcome. Notices will be mailed next week.

Our e-mail list is not complete yet. If you see co-workers, please let them know about the successful Trade Act certification.

PEER OUTREACH WORKERS CONTINUED...

Also if you have not given your e-mail address and would like for us to be able to forward on important information just drop us an email at ljwiebe@gapac.com or Juan.Garciajr@gapac.com. Please share this newsletter with your co-workers as we do not have everyone's contact information.

Also those of you who are continuing on with G-P medical (Conexis) for 90 days, you must enroll for 2008. You only have **45 days** to enroll after receiving your packet. You can enroll online at Conexis.org or call Conexis at 1-877-722-2667. G-P will be paying 75% of the premium for the months of January, February, and March 2008 only.

Peer Outreach
Juan Garcia – (360) 752-6713
Loni Wiebe – (360) 676-7216



60-DAY CLOCK FOR TRAINING BENEFITS

For eligible persons enrolled in an approved training program, Training Benefits allow you to collect additional weeks of unemployment benefits once you have received all of your regular benefits.



Important! You have **60 days** to submit a *Training Benefits Application* after filing for Unemployment Insurance and 90 days to be enrolled in training after being notified of Training Benefits.

For information, contact:
Erika Smith - (360) 676-3238

JOB FAIRS & HIRING EVENTS

To get the most recent information on local job fairs and hiring events, visit www.go2worksource.com and click on Job Fair Calendar.

G-P has been contacted directly by recruitment officers from the following companies:

- Fairhaven Shipyards
- All American Marine
- Matrix (Hiring late Feb. & March)
- Loren Vanderyacht Asphalt Company (Hiring for everything from General Labor & Equipment Operators to Office Staff)
- www.AEROTEK.com (national staffing service)

Please contact Juan Garcia or Loni Wiebe if you are interested in additional information on employment opportunities available through these employers.

WHATCOM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Whatcom Community College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and offers associate degrees in academic transfer, general studies, and professional/technical areas.

The College offers day and evening classes in new, attractive, and up-to-date facilities. Classes average 25-35 students, allowing more individual attention from faculty.

Visit WCC's Website at www.whatcom.ctc.edu and review the online college catalog for degree options and individual course descriptions.

For information, contact:
Entry and Advising Center at (360) 676-2170 ext. 3214
or email admit@whatcom.ctc.edu

UPCOMING C-STOP CLASSES

C-Stop safety certification training will be held on January 26th, February 9th, March 1st, and March 29th.
Contact Peer Outreach for details.

VALUE OF SEEING A WORKSOURCE COUNSELOR

WorkSource Counselors played a major role in helping workers laid off in the 2001 Pulp Mill closure find jobs and re-enter the workforce. By working with a WorkSource Counselor, you get:

- Guidance from experts in our local workforce
- Connection to the jobs, resources, and training you may need
- An individual, customized plan of action
- Support for your unique goals and needs

Many employment and training programs have timelines. If you haven't already, the G-P Labor-Management Team encourages you to introduce yourself to a WorkSource Counselor as soon as possible.

Trade Act Counselors:

Erika Smith – (360) 676-3238
Shawn Brookshier – (360) 676-3247

Dislocated Worker Counselors:

Daniel Reedman – (360) 676-3242
Rich Sandeen – (360) 676-3217

NO EXPERIENCE WITH COMPUTERS?

Don't be intimidated by computers! Whether looking for a job or changing careers, computer skills are essential in today's job market. WorkSource has a **6-session Computer Fundamentals class starting January 22nd**.

Class curriculum was developed by Microsoft and is provided by WorkSource. Classes are designed for beginners. Space is limited.

To reserve a seat, call:
(360) 676-3212

WorkSource Drop In Sessions are Fridays 2:00-4:00pm.