

May 28, 2009

Goodwill Awarded One Stop Contract in San Luis Obispo County

In March of this year, Goodwill Industries was selected by the San Luis Obispo County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) to operate the county's Business and Career One Stop (BCOS) service centers. The BCOS provides a comprehensive array of services to match employers with job seekers and assist the WIB with economic development and employer retention services. Goodwill accepted the contract that begins July 1st. Goodwill President, Michael Paul states, "This is wonderful news. Goodwill has been focusing on expanding its services in SLO and as the operator of the One Stop we will be able to meet those strategic objectives. This program will link us with hundreds of businesses and thousands of job seekers each year. We couldn't be happier".

Goodwill's participation will enable the Workforce Investment Board to extend its services to the Five Cities area. These much needed services will be available in the Five Cities area for the first time to employers and job seekers. "We are excited to deliver services to the south county where the need is particularly acute especially in these rough economic times" Paul said.

Business and Career One-Stops are designed to provide a full range of assistance to job seekers and employers under one roof. BCOS's were established under the Workforce Investment Act. The centers offer training referrals, career counseling, job listings, and similar employment-related programs. Available at the BCOS will be Goodwill personnel, employment services staff, Cuesta College instructors and private agencies to assist employers and job seekers. Goodwill will employ nine people full-time to staff the center and satellite offices.

Core Services such as Assessment and Job Search Workshops will be provided at no cost to job seeking customers. Intensive services will be made available to those unable to obtain work through core services and those clients will receive one-on-one help or an Individual Employment Plan (IEP). After going through the core and intensive services, those who qualify may enroll in longer term training. Bi-lingual services will be offered to those of limited English proficiency.

The Business and Career One Stop Centers also offer a Rapid Response Team (RRT) to assist businesses and people facing layoffs. BOCSS staff will meet with employers and employees at their worksite site to ensure that everyone is aware of all the resources that are available to help fast track them into the system and new work

Three separate locations will be available to the job seeker. The comprehensive service center will be at 880 Industrial Way in San Luis Obispo. Renovations are underway to improve accessibility and provide space for the other agencies that will co-locate there. Computers, phone and general communication infrastructure will be expanded. The north county satellite location will remain at Cuesta College in Paso Robles while the south county site is still to be determined.

The entire Goodwill team is rallying together to hit the ground running come July 1st. They are excited to take on this large project with hopes to improve services to those in need in San Luis Obispo County.

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