

# INSIDER 17

*Keeping Area 17 WIB members informed*

**December 2011**

## **Oh-Penn Job Expo Connects Employers, Area Job Seekers**

The Oh-Penn Job Expo 2011, attracted 72 employers, 23 training providers and 2,300 job seekers to Youngstown's Covelli Centre on Sept. 22.

Although the numbers were slightly less than previous years, the smaller numbers allowed for more direct contact between employers and job seekers.

It was the third year the One-Stops of Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana Counties partnered with the PA CareerLink of Mercer and Lawrence Counties in Pennsylvania to host the employment event.

Following the event, participant demographics were compiled and reviewed and a follow-up survey conducted with employers. As of early December, 14 participating employers reported hiring 20 individuals they connected with at Job Expo 2011.

Hiring typically continues for several months following the event as employers include Job Expo contacts in their on-going hiring process. Many employers indicated they retain resumes and applications from the Job Expo for up to one year. Another employer survey is planned for late January.

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***WIB members' role in the Job Expo is to help spread the word, participate if appropriate and provide guidance and in-sight to the organizing committee so the event is as successful as possible. (For a full Job Expo Wrap Up Package, contact Gloria Mathews at [gloria@onestopohio.org](mailto:gloria@onestopohio.org).)***

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## **Job Seekers**

The educational attainment levels of this year's job seekers ranged through Ph.Ds. with 58 percent having schooling or training beyond high school. Only 5 percent lacked a high school diploma, comparable to previous years.

Their ages were relatively diverse with 11 percent in the under 21 category. This year the 21 to 30 age group was the largest at 29 percent.

Over the years, females have been the smaller segment of job seekers with their numbers increasing to 45 percent this year. Veterans consistently represent 10 percent of the total. This year 52 percent reported using either the One-Stop Workforce System or PA CareerLink.

Mahoning County residents represented 61 percent of the job seekers as has been the case the past three years with a consistent 2 percent coming from outside the five-county region.

Manufacturing represented the largest field of interest (12 percent) followed by Healthcare (11 percent), Sales (11 percent) and Food Service (10 percent), tracking the most popular fields of interest from the previous year.

## **Exhibitors**

There were employers and training providers from all five counties as well as a significant number from outside the region.

Employers from Mahoning County had the largest representation at 47 percent while training providers from outside the Interstate Region had the largest representation -- 30 percent -- of all participating schools.