

Jobs Plus '11 Job Fair Successful Event: Over 1600 Job Seekers in Attendance

“Jobs Plus '11”, an annual regional job fair, was held Wednesday, September 28, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville, IL. The job fair was open to the public, with free parking and admission.

Over 50 companies and sponsors participated in the event and were looking to hire new employees for a variety of positions. An estimated 1600 job seekers were in attendance. Madison County Chairman Alan Dunstan commented, “We are pleased with the excellent turnout for JOBS PLUS '11, our 21st annual job fair in the metro east area. I am glad that Madison County and our partners could provide this service to the many citizens looking for work, as well as the many businesses searching for qualified employees.”

Professional workshops for job seekers were also offered at the job fair including “*Job Fair 411*”; “*Online Applications: Dos and Don'ts*”; “*Interview Tips*”; “*Area Agency on Aging: What We Can Do For Older Adults*”, “*Dress for Success*” and “*cTORQ Personal Employment Planner; A New Tool for Job Seekers*”. There was also on site copying services and free interpretation services for the hearing impaired and the Spanish speaking population.



The metro-east job fair has been successful each year since 1991. Companies travel from all over the surrounding area to participate, hoping to find qualified employees. David Stoecklin, Executive Director for Madison County Employment and Training added, “Jobs Plus continues to provide a vital service to the metro-east area. In this very trying time, we find the area has a motivated workforce that will serve us well as we rebuild our local economy. Our many partners, from the community colleges to the state agencies all work together to make this a success. The many participating businesses have often been with us from the start and see the value in our annual event.”

The sponsors of this regional event include the Madison County Employment & Training Department; St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department, Employment and Training Division; Area Agency on Aging of Southwestern Illinois; AARP Foundation/WorkSearch Programs; Illinois Department of Employment Security; Illinois Department of Human Services; Lewis & Clark Community College; Madison-Bond Workforce Investment Board; Mid America Workforce Investment Board; Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; and Southwestern Illinois College.

“We look forward to next year, when we can again serve the needs of both the workforce and employers in our area” stated Dunstan. “This kind of effort is one way in which we can help connect workers with jobs.”



Additional information about this event may be obtained by contacting Connie Vick, Jobs Plus 2011 Chairperson, at 618-296-4596 or cvick@mcetd.org.