

# The Telegraph

## REGION

Telegraph staff report

EDWARDSVILLE — The lines spoke volumes about the job market.

Hundreds of people turned out for a state-sponsored job fair on Tuesday, hoping for a shot at a new job — or just a job, period — during an employment fair.

“Each and every one of us has a story — either of trying to find or keep a job, or having a close friend or family member who is out of work or living in fear of the next round of layoffs,” said Illinois Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka, who attended and spoke at the event.

She greeted hundreds of job-seekers who were there to visit with the 40–some employers gathered at Lewis and Clark Community College’s N.O. Nelson Campus for Employment Expo: Metro East. The event was the third in a series that targets unemployment and the financial stresses facing residents.

Sponsored by the Comptroller’s Office in partnership with the college, Madison County and the Southern Illinois Employers Association, the Expo brought together job-seekers with state vendors and other local employers. Beyond featuring employment opportunities, the event offered free retraining and professional development workshops.

Topinka was joined at the program by LCCC President Dale Chapman, Madison County Board Chairman Alan Dunstan and Edwardsville Mayor Gary Niebur.

Topinka noted the state’s 10 percent unemployment rate.

“And at the same time, we know that there are Illinois businesses that are hiring. The key is to get job-seekers in front of the people who are doing the hiring — and that’s what our Employment Expos are all about,” she said.

The event delivered provided a much-needed service, Dunstan said.

“This is an excellent occasion for folks to get an idea of the types of jobs that are available and to explore educational opportunities that might prepare them to compete for openings,” he said.



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Illinois Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka, right, chats with Allan Benko of Granite City on Tuesday at the Employment Expo: Metro East, sponsored by the State Comptroller’s Office and held at Lewis and Clark Community College’s N.O. Nelson Campus at 600 Troy Road in Edwardsville. Crowds of hundreds of job-seekers lined the hallways of the school, waiting their chance to file past and talk with 40 different employers who attended the job fair.

Read more:

<http://www.thetelegraph.com/articles/job-64405-attend-edwardsville.html#ixzz1jG9YfzsQ>