

NEWS RELEASE

For Northwest Iowa Distribution



Iowa Workforce Development

For Immediate Release

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SPENCER, IOWA – “Registered Apprenticeship Programs” Employers: Maximize Your Workforce Potential! Strengthen your human resource development effort, elevate the skills of your existing workforce, and quickly get new employees contributing to your productivity through Registered Apprenticeship.

The Lakes Area Employers’ Council (ECI) will be meeting on Tuesday, September 19, 2006 from 11:30 to 1:30 pm at the Arnolds Park Amusement Park Pavilion to learn about Registered Apprenticeship Programs. Featured speaker will be Greer Sisson, Iowa State Director for the Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer & Labor Services. All business owners, human resource personnel and managers are invited to attend.

Apprenticeship connects job seekers looking to learn new skills with employers looking for qualified workers. Employers provide apprentices with instruction that reflects industry needs. Registered apprenticeship is a formalized, structured training program combining on-the-job training and related technical instruction in which paid employees receive practical and technical training in a highly skilled occupation. Apprenticeship is industry-driven career training and industry determines the skills that are essential to sustain a quality workforce. The result is workers with industry-driven training and employers with a competitive edge.

Program topics include:

- What are apprenticeship programs?
- 850 occupations that are recognized as being apprentice-able
- Apprenticeships build a skilled workforce and upgrade employee skills
- Apprenticeships enhance your recruitment and increase employee retention
- Apprenticeships provide greater workforce competency and productivity
- Register your business for apprenticeship

Pre-registration is requested by Friday September 15th to Carol Morgan at (712) 262-1971 extension 126 or Carol.Morgan@iwd.iowa.gov. The registration fee of \$7.00 includes lunch and handouts; if you register but do not attend, you will be billed. A certificate of attendance will be provided to attendees for recertification purposes.

Meet Greer Sisson:

Greer L. Sisson is the Iowa State Director for the Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship. As State Director, some of her responsibilities include promoting and ensuring equal opportunity for women and minorities in the skilled workforce, registering “Standards of Apprenticeship” and providing professional services and technical assistance to both potential and existing employers. Ms Sisson develops plans for and promotes the establishment by industry (labor and management, jointly, or labor or management individually). Ms Sisson works closely with State and Local officials and groups representing business, labor, education, government, faith and community based organizations and with industrial development commissions to advise on community training problems. Ms Sisson retired from the United States Air Force in 1998 with 20 Years Air Traffic Control experience. She spent the last four years of her military service in Europe serving as the Chief, Air Traffic Control Training and Standardization NCO. She was responsible for certifying apprentice controllers, developing and managing the Air Traffic Control Training and Standardization program to ensure 100% compliance with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). She has been awarded many awards throughout her career to include “Outstanding Young Woman of America”.

The Lakes Area Employers’ Council is a local employer group supported by Iowa Workforce Development Region 3, and is part of the statewide Employers’ Council of Iowa system. This employer’s group addresses workforce issues, and provides both educational and networking opportunities for employers and human resource professionals. Contact Carol Morgan at (712) 262-1971 extension 126 or Carol.Morgan@iwd.iowa.gov if you have questions about this training session or about the Lakes Area Employers’ Council.

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