

# News & Views online

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The monthly employee newsletter of the WORKFORCE West Virginia Division ♦ Available online at [www.wvbep.org/bep/](http://www.wvbep.org/bep/)

## A Tribute to Judy Howard

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our colleague and friend, Judy Howard, at home on May 3, 2006, after a short illness. Judy began her career with our agency in

what is now the Research, Information, and Analysis Division. After leaving the agency for a time, she returned and had worked either in the Communications Unit or as manager of the Mail Room. Most recently she was the editor of News and Views and worked with the Business Services Team.

Judy always approached an assignment with a positive attitude and was

always volunteering for extra assignments. She transcended the relationship of coworker to that of friend and, quite often, confidante with those she worked with throughout our agency. Judy was a caring person, who would quite often go out of her way to help those around her. She was a loving wife to her husband, Paul, and a caring and loving mother to her son Devan. She will truly be missed by all of us here in WORKFORCE West Virginia.

## Note on News and Views Delay

We regret the delay on the issuing of News and Views for March/April. With the passing of Judy Howard, Editor, unforeseeable delays occurred.

We appreciate your understanding and patience. We are planning on the May/June News and Views being issued on time. Thank you and continue to keep Judy's family in your thoughts and prayers.

Richard Westfall

## Deel Receives Vet Award

Ken Deel, Field Supervisor over Veterans Services, received the Veterans Incentive Award for the first quarter of this year.

Ken has served the state for 36 years, 22 of which has been with our agency. Ken has been involved with Veterans Services for over 17 years. He goes above and beyond the call of duty in helping the veterans staff he supervises and provides superior support for them, and in conjunction with the local office veterans services staff, support for veterans in the state of West Virginia. Steve Dailey presented the award to Ken in Charleston.



## America's Job Bank Gets Laid Off

*Reprinted from "Workforce Management."*

The U.S. Labor Department plans to close America's Job Bank—the national online job board—in a little more than a year, a move that could hurt employers and job seekers.

The Labor Department sent notices to state officials earlier this year saying "The benefits of AJB (America's Job Bank) no longer outweigh the costs of operating and maintaining this system. Therefore, AJB will be phased out during the next 18 months and cease to be operational on June 30, 2007."

But shutting down America's Job Bank will be a major blow to employers and job seekers, says Gerry Crispin, co-founder of job-site consulting firm CareerXroads. Crispin says the site has been a way to aggregate all the job postings of some 2,000 state employment offices around the country, giving smaller, local employers the ability to broadcast their jobs nationwide for free. And the AJB site is often used by lower-skilled people who turn to state employment offices. Those people may have to rely on a fragmented network of state job sites or private-sector job boards that will not have all the job listings that employers currently give to America's Job Bank, Crispin says.

# Big Gold Star Page



This section is dedicated to the dedicated—to those who make a difference in the lives of our customers—both internal and external.

Please be advised that **Diane Perdue** is one of the most helpful people I have worked with in State Government. She is prompt in returning my calls and has worked very hard on behalf of the Associated Builders and Contractors of West Virginia in helping us get online.

- Virginia Tucker  
Associated Builders and Contractors of West Virginia.

TO: **Elizabeth Adkins**, UC Audit and Compliance

Thank you very much for all your help in this matter. You have demonstrated good customer service by being prompt and most of all, anytime I called you, you answered the phone personally instead of using voice mail. Thank you!

- Ruzanna Berberyan



**Judy Wolfe** is a career Local Office interviewer who performs a myriad of duties. She is equally at home with dealing with employers or applicants. She has volunteered and served on many WORKFORCE West Virginia workgroups and committees, and her 22 years of service has given her great insight into process improvement within her office. She does not back away from work and will go above and beyond her normal job duties even though it may mean additional work. She is cooperative and helpful with her coworkers and with her customers.

## March Employees of the Month

Because her work ethic mirrors her personal convictions, **Jean Blankenbeckler** believes in providing a quality product in addition to providing a caring, supportive atmosphere for fragile customers who may be experiencing their first bout of unemployment. As Huntington UC Office Manager, she is seen as someone that her staff looks up to. She is kind

and respectful, and her passion, dedication and caring for her employees and her customers has always put the best face on our agency.



**Jean Blankenbeckler**

### Lisa Collins



As a lead staff person for MACC in her office, **Lisa Collins** interviews claimants and enters data in both the MACC common intake and the IS&C computer systems. She has learned her job well and has used her knowledge of computer data entry, spreadsheets and word processing to improve the workflow and allows the manager many tools to assist in determining work activities in the Welch office. She is polite and friendly with all customers and promotes a positive image with both the public and her coworkers.



**Judy Wolfe**

## April Employees of the Month



### Teresa Dunlap

While being friendly and cooperative with the public as she handles claims in the Welch UC office, **Teresa Dunlap** has learned and performed duties far beyond what is expected of her. She assists the Dual Manager in learning and understanding all the forms, screens, reports and other duties expected of the UC staff. Claimants and employers have complimented her on her excellent work, and applaud her courtesy and quick action on their requests.

### James Campbell

**James Campbell** serves as the Case Manager providing WIA services to customers at the Mercer County Job Service. Jim goes beyond the call of duty in providing support and assistance to his fellow staff and his customers. Customers say that his expertise and knowledge of his job are exceptional while also being enthusiastic, and informative. Jim is good at solving problems and strives to come up with fair and effective solutions.



### Edith Kansas

When working in a small office, staff are forced to wear many hats. **Edith Kansas** is no exception, as she plans and conducts training programs for the staff in her Weirton WORKFORCE West Virginia office. In addition to her other duties with Employment Services and the Business Service Team member duties, she has also accepted the overwhelming duties of helping to pilot the MACC system and continues to help with fine tuning this system. She is friendly, helpful and approachable while presenting a professional image in her community.

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Deadline for *News&Views online* is the first day of the month.

### Is It Time to Lower Your Standards?

Are your standards unreasonably high? If they are, you may find the need to lower them at some point so that you can make progress on whatever project you are working on. Lowering your standards does not mean that you lower the quality of your work, but instead means that you lower your standards of perfectionism or achievement. Perfectionism or unrealistic goals can debilitate you on the job. When you lower your standards, what you do is say, "All I need to do is this first little thing." Then do it without hesitation, and it will be likely that you will be on your way to getting things done.



*Karen Trogdon was honored recently for her 24 years of service. Karen retired as the Williamson UC Manager at the end of April.*

**WORKFORCE West Virginia**

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## Protecting Yourself From The Sun

With hotter weather on the way in many parts of the United States, it's time to take note once again of sun safety facts. Exposure to the sun's ultraviolet radiation can be harmful, according to The Skin Cancer Foundation. To protect yourself and your family, follow these tips:

- During the sun's peak hours, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., seek out shade to avoid exposure.
- Use a broad spectrum sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher.
- Use clothing to cover your skin. Wear broad-brimmed hats and ultra violet blocking sunglasses.
- Avoid tanning parlors and other devices for artificial tanning.
- Make sure that you are following a healthy diet that provides you with Vitamin D safely.
- Always keep newborns out of the sun. Once the child is more than 6 months old sunscreens can be used.
- Make sure you teach your children sun-protective practices.
- Take time once a month to examine your skin from head to toe.
- Have a professional examination annually.
- Avoid tanning – and especially sun burning.
- Remember that one blistering sunburn doubles your risk of melanoma.

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