

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER: Workforce Development Center

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The mission of the Racine County Workforce Development Center is to ensure our workforce has the skills and education needed to meet the needs of local, regional and global employers.

## Work certified

In today's economic climate, we continue to hear from area employers about the shortage of qualified job candidates. To meet our goal of connecting qualified workers to area employers, more than 400 Racine County residents earned their National Career Readiness Certification, offered by the ACT organization, in 2011. The NCRC covers skills in the areas of reading, mathematics, and locating information. The NCRC helps a potential employer evaluate how well an applicant will fit the company's needs.

Thirty-five percent of the employers posting vacancies on *JobCenterofWisconsin*, a statewide electronic job board, prefer the NCRC as a condition of employment, so if you are looking for a job, it may be a good idea to get work certified now. There is no cost to job seekers to earn the credential and more than 3,000 Wisconsin residents have earned their NCRC.

We have testimonials from job seekers and employers that indicate obtaining the NCRC is worthwhile. Michael Morrison is a job-seeking member of ProTech, a professional technical networking group that meets every Monday at the WDC. Michael earned his NCRC.

"I attended the KeyTrain orientation at the WDC to learn more about the NCRC and then proceeded to take the pretests to find out where I stood," said Morrison.

"KEYTRAINS was easy to use, it does take time to do the studying, but you can do it at your own pace before you sign up to take the actual tests at WDC. After talking to several people that had taken the actual tests I decided to take them individually and not get stressed. The experience was a good one. I found out that the areas I thought I was strong in needed some work and an area where I thought I did not turned out to be a strength for me, which was a pleasant surprise," said Morrison.

To find out more about certifying your skills and other services, please visit us online at [www.wdc.racineco.com](http://www.wdc.racineco.com), or come in to one of our two locations. Our Racine office is at 1717 Taylor Ave., (262) 638-6312; hours are Monday 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Our Burlington office is at 496 McCanna Parkway, Room 119, (262) 767-5399, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

## Youth employment

Racine County's 2011 Summer Youth Employment and Training Program renamed "E3" (Employ, Enrich, Engage) provided work experience and training to more than 130 area young adults. E3 participants completed 640 hours of community service work, 74 earned half high school credit and 33 young adults were offered employment at the end of the program. This year's program was sponsored by private, public and non-profit organizations. SC Johnson, a Family Company, supported this year's program with a \$25,000 donation.

## Volunteer income tax credit site

Are you looking for a simple and easy way to prepare your taxes? The Racine County Workforce Development Center is a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site. Low to moderate income individuals who need help preparing their own tax forms can have a certified IRS volunteer assist them. Schedule an appointment by calling (262) 637-8377 ext. 119. Scheduling will begin in January, please do not call before Jan. 3. Volunteers are needed to assist with preparing tax returns, please contact the VITA Coordinator at (262) 637-8377 ext. 117 to learn more about this exciting opportunity.

## Awards

Nominations are being accepted through Jan. 17 for the first annual Higher Expectations Challenge One Award in education,

sponsored by the Racine County Workforce Development Board. This award recognizes an exemplary program that prepares K-12 students for the world of work through effective teaching, learning and community engagement. The winner will receive \$500 to invest in program development. To nominate a colleague or program, visit our web site at [www.wdc.racineco.com](http://www.wdc.racineco.com) to obtain an application.