

Work and Economic Support E-Newsletter

A Monthly Summary of Developments Impacting Wisconsin's Workers and Employers

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Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

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Feel free to forward this e-newsletter to other interested parties, and encourage them to sign up for this and/or other WCCF e-newsletter lists at <http://capwiz.com/wccf/mlm/signup/>. You can contact the author, John Keckhaver, directly at jkeckhaver@wccf.org and ext. 305.

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1. *New WCCF Issue Brief on Financial Aid Eligibility*****

Pushed by a changing economy and new skill demands of employers, more working adults are returning to the classroom in order to improve their skills and gain a postsecondary credential. How the state's financial aid tools match up with the needs and enrollment behavior of the state's working students is the focus of the latest workforce-development issue brief from the Council. The report can be found on the WCCF homepage, www.wccf.org

2. Legislative Study Committee Hears from Postsecondary Education Leaders

AnyOne wanting to know how the state's postsecondary institutions are responding to the changing economy and our growing skill shortages should have been in room 412 East in the State Capitol on August 18th. The legislative council study committee *Building Wisconsin's Workforce* heard from, among others, leadership from the UW System, Technical College System and the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Fortunately, you can access all of those presentations at the committee's

legislative website

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/committees/study/2008/WORK/index.htm>

The next meeting of the Building Wisconsin's Workforce study committee will be held on September 23rd. You can find a meeting notice and agenda at the same website.

3. Financial Aid Funds Running Out Earlier this Year

A recent Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article highlighted a disturbing fact – that funds for financial aid awards for Technical College students have already run out. Last year about 2,400 students who qualified for aid did not receive it because the funds ran out, that number promises to be much higher this year.

Click here to view the MSJ article, and for the Council's take on the issue of financial aid funding – as well as recommendations for what policymakers should do about it – click here.

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=788405>

http://www.wccf.org/pdf/aiding_success.pdf

4. Unemployment Continues to Climb

The unemployment rate in August climbed to its highest level in 5 years. For more on this story, including the significant job losses incurred this year, click here.

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=791579>

5. Primary Health Care Worker Shortage – New Report

The lack of skilled workers in Wisconsin runs across many industries, including health care. A recent report, "Building a Primary Care Workforce for the 21st Century," details the shortage of primary care doctors and nurses in Wisconsin. For the Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association's take on the issue, click here.

<http://www.nachc.com/client/documents/ACCESS%20Transformed%20full%20report.PDF>

<http://www.thewheelerreport.com/releases/Aug08/aug12/0812wphcanurses.pdf>

6. Recent News

Fannie, Freddie and You: What it Means to the Public

The New York Times

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/08/business/08consumer.html>

Troubled Mortgages Increasing in State

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=791565>

The Economic Growth Mirage

CNN Money.com

http://money.cnn.com/2008/08/27/news/economy/economy_outlook/index.htm?postversion=2008082808

Building a New Economy (influence of research universities)

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=787710>

From Crossroads to Crisis (departing UW-Madison Chancellor guest article)

Madison Magazine

http://www.madisonmagazine.com/article.php?section_id=918&xstate=view_story&story_id=235966

7. Other Reading and Resources

Chicago Fed National Activity Index (if you're interested in whether we are in or heading toward a recession you should read this short piece – it may be the best indicator of national economic activity around)

http://www.chicagofed.org/economic_research_and_data/files/cfnai_august2008.pdf

Unfair Bank Practices Threaten to Shred the Safety Net of Social Security for Older Americans

Center for Responsible Lending Report

<http://www.responsiblelending.org/issues/overdraft/reports/shredded-security.html>

8. WCCF Job Vacancy – Deputy Director

The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families is accepting applications for the position of Deputy Director. To view the job description and for contact information, go to: http://www.wccf.org/about_job.php