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## **Job Skills and Career Workshop Planned for Feb. 21**

### **Session for Laid Off Miners Open to the Public**

**Macoupin County**-In an effort to help local coal miners who recently lost their jobs due to the closures of Monterey Coal Mine and the Crown II Mine, Macoupin County has joined with several local and state partners to present a job skills and career workshop on Feb. 21 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Activities Center at the Lake Williamson Christian Retreat Center.

“The workshop presented in September after the closure of Crown II Mine was well attended and we received positive feedback from the coal miners,” said Macoupin County Board Chairman Andrew Manar.

“With that in mind, we decided we should have a second workshop to help not only the Monterey Coal Miners, but anyone who has been affected by layoffs in our region. Thanks to the agencies partnering with the County, I feel the workshop will provide some valuable resources to those attending.”

The workshop, sponsored by Macoupin County Economic Development, the Carlinville Entrepreneurship Center, The Carlinville Job Center, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Opportunity Returns Program, and the Illinois Department of Employment Security, will feature exhibits by employers, schools, and training programs as well as three educational break out sessions.

The break out sessions, which will run twice from 8:30 to 10 a.m. and from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., are “Tools for a Successful Job Search” by Jerry O’ Hare, coordinator of Career Services at Blackburn; “Starting A Business in Illinois” by Art Knippel, director of the Carlinville Entrepreneurship Center; and “Financial Aid Tips and Tools” by Jane Kelsey, director of Financial Aid at Blackburn.

The employer and school exhibits will be open from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Lake Williamson Christian Retreat Center is located on Illinois Route 4 approximately 2 miles south of Carlinville.

The public is also invited to attend the workshop. For more information about attending the workshop or to make arrangements to set up a school, training program or employer exhibit, contact Susie Stinnett at The Carlinville Job Center at 217-854-9753 or [Susie.stinnett@west-central.org](mailto:Susie.stinnett@west-central.org).

