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Job Skills and Career Workshop Planned for Sept. 26

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 closure of Crown II mine, Macoupin County has joined with several local and state partners to present a job skills and career workshop on Wednesday, Sept. 26 from 9 a.m. to noon at the auditorium at the Lake Williamson Christian Retreat Center.

“The closure of Crown II will have an impact on the economy of our County and our region, and will be most directly felt by the almost 200 workers who have lost their jobs,” said Macoupin County Board Chairman Andrew Manar.

“As the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) has a Rapid Response Team that is meeting with the miners and their families this week to provide assistance, the County Board felt we too should try to provide the miners with any and all resources available to help them get back on their feet,” Manar added.

The workshop, sponsored by Macoupin County Economic Development, DCEO, and the Carlinville Entrepreneurship Center, will have three components: a job skills session, a session on starting your own business, and a career fair with local schools and training programs represented.

“We’ve had an excellent response from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Carlinville Entrepreneurship Center, Blackburn College, Lincoln Land Community College, the United Mine Workers of America, the Laborer’s Union Local 338 out of Wood River, the Job Center in Carlinville, the Illinois Department of Employment Security, and a host of other agencies and schools that will be at the workshop to offer their resources,” said Nora Feuquay, coordinator of Macoupin County Economic Development.

The job skills portion of the workshop will be presented by Sheila Cutwright of the Illinois Department of Employment Security. Cutwright will discuss job search resources, resumes, web-based job searches, skills match, and jobs available in the area.

The Carlinville Entrepreneurship Center presentation will cover topics related to starting your own business such as business plan development, business resources and the requirements for starting a business in Illinois, according to the center’s director Art Knippel.

The third component of the workshop will include a presentation by Blackburn College on financial aid and a career fair with schools and training programs from the region represented.

DCEO Central Account Manager Shari Albrecht said the workshop is a good example of how the region can work together to meet challenges such as the mine closure.

“The agencies and schools presenting the workshop show how a regional collaborative effort from different communities can benefit the coal miners that live in Macoupin County and surrounding counties,” said Albrecht.

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, but is asked to RSVP as to what session they would like to attend. RSVP to Feuquay, at 217-854-7727 or nora.feuquay@macoupincountyil.gov.