

Governor's State Workforce Investment Board

★1327 Lockey ★PO Box 1728 ★Helena MT 59624 ★Ph: 406-444-1620 ★Fax: 406-444-1394



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Pam Watson, Program Specialist

NGA May Forum Looks at Making America 'Elder-Ready'

By the National Governor's Association (NGA)

America is getting older. Are we ready? As the nation's baby boomers begin to retire, the nation's governors are looking for public policies that will encourage healthier lifestyles, increase retirement planning, improve long term care, and utilize technology to enhance lifelong quality of life. Looking to make wellness the rule rather than the exception, NGA's Center for Best Practices will sponsor a two-day policy academy on the states role in aging in May, National Older American's Month.

Currently there are 35 million Americans 65 years of age and older. In eight years, that number more than doubles as 77 million baby boomers reach retirement age. While the numbers alone are staggering, the implications for government – from the federal to the local level – are daunting. Policy-makers and government officials must begin to plan for the large number of Americans who will require housing, health care, transportation and a myriad of government services.

With this in mind, Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne has made confronting America's long-term care challenges his top priority during his tenure as NGA Chairman. Since launching his Chairman's Initiative, "A Lifetime of Health and Dignity", Governor Kempthorne has traversed the country talking with aging experts, health care providers, academics, caregivers and seniors.

In May – National Older Americans Month – the NGA Center for Best Practices will host a policy forum in Chicago, as part of Governor Kempthorne's initiative, where high-level state teams will hear from national experts, and fellow governors, to begin developing a framework for addressing the pressing long-term care and aging challenges facing states. Teams from all 50 states and the U.S. Territories are invited to take part in the two-day best practices academy.

Following the discussion, the teams will be charged with developing action plans to implement policy changes at the state level that can help individuals live long and robust lives. Academy participants may focus on one of four policy objectives: Health and Wellness; Retirement Planning; Community Care and Caregivers; and In-Home Workforce.

Today and in the future, it is important for Americans to have the ability and opportunity to retire in communities they already call home while living active, independent lives, free from the burdens of illness and chronic disease. "Today, unfortunately, many Americans are not meeting their goal of aging with the well-being and way of life they desire", Governor Kempthorne has said. "However, if we can better prepare Americans to plan for their health needs in retirement, change the focus of long-term care from institutional-based services to home and community-based services, and assist individuals in following healthier lifestyles, we can help citizens age with independence and dignity."

For more information about the initiative, or to learn more about getting America "elder-ready", visit the NGA website at: www.nga.org.

Inside this Issue:

- o NGA May Forum
- o MSU Ranked top 10
- o Missouri to Encourage Life Sciences Training
- o JMG Awards Scholarships
- o Annual Arbitration and Labor Relations Conference

Upcoming Events:

- May 20 - 21** SWIB Meeting, Helena
- June 8 - 9** JobLINC Partners Training Billings, MT
- June 10 - 11** JobLINC Partners Training – Missoula, MT
- June 23-25** Montana Workforce Conference – Great Falls
- July 19-23** NASTAD Conference, Billings
- August 21-24** NGA Chairs/Staff Meeting – Denver, CO
- Sept. 1 - 2** SWIB Meeting, Helena
- Sept. 23 - 24** Arbitration & Labor Relations Conf. – Bozeman, MT

You will find a direct link to our newsletters on the official State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) website:
www.discoveringmontana.com/gov2/css/boards/workforce/

Montana State University - College of Business, Ranked in Top 10 of Colleges Nationwide for Entrepreneurship Emphasis

Pam Watson

To conduct this study, more than 825 entrepreneurship programs and curricula were researched from September through December 2003. The study was conducted by TechKnowledge Point Corp., an entrepreneurship research and referral exchange based in Santa Barbara, CA. The programs were ranked using over 70 separate criteria, including teaching and research faculty, courses offered, business and community outreaches, research centers, off campus extensions, and certificates and/or degrees offered.

For more information or to review the complete study, you may visit www.entrepreneur.com/topcolleges/. ■

Jobs for Montana's Graduates Awards Scholarships to Students from Plains, Rudyard, Billings, Culbertson and Helena.



Pictured are: Rebecca George, Blue Sky HS; Drew Nettleton, Helena HS; Paula Stricklin, Billings Career Center; Mindy Revier Plains HS; Amanda Brown, Plains HS; Becca Waddington, Culbertson HS. Missing from the picture is Robert Horinek from Blue Sky HS in Rudyard. Also pictured: Lt. Gov. Karl Ohs, Mike Halligan, from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation.

Missouri to Encourage Life Sciences Training

Contact – Neil Ridley, NGA

Missouri Governor Bob Holden has launched a new program that will forgive up to \$10,000 in student loans for students who pursue a math or science degree and take a job with a life sciences company based in the state.

The program is called the Missouri Advantage Repayment Incentive Option, and offers up to \$2500 in loan forgiveness every year for up to four years that a student is employed at an eligible company. Funding comes from interest on a portion of tax-exempt bonds allocated to the state's Higher Education Loan Authority. ■

Annual Arbitration & Labor Relations Conference

Pam Watson

The 25th annual Arbitration and Labor Relations Conference will be held on September 23 and 24, 2004, at the GranTree Inn in Bozeman. The conference provides a forum for everyone in the labor relations arena to meet to exchange information and learn from one another, as well as from practitioners throughout the labor relations community. In order to give practitioners an opportunity to further participate in the labor relations process, the Montana Board of Personnel Appeals will conduct its regular September meeting directly following the conference on Friday afternoon.

The entire agenda for the conference is available at the conference home page, www.mtlaborrelationsconf.com. This page provides links to the agenda, presenter biographical information, and on-line pre-registration for the conference.

The conference is sponsored by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Board of Personnel Appeals, Montana Arbitration Association, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, and the National Labor Relations Board. ■