Gulf Coast Petrochemical
INFORMATION NETWORK

February 2008 Update

GC-PIN Meeting

Just a reminder to all that the next full meeting of the GC-PIN is scheduled for February 15 from 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM (*continental breakfast: 7:30 AM - 8:00 AM*) at the San Jacinto College District office at 4624 Fairmount Parkway.

New Logo

The information network has a new logo which we will be using on our communication. A special thanks goes to Linda Drobnich for getting this accomplished so quickly.

Survey

Amy Holloway from Avalanche Consulting is the vendor selected by the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region to develop the workforce demand survey for the petrochemical industry in Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston and Harris counties.

On Monday, she spent the entire day interviewing a large number of the information network partners to begin the question development. Bob Brinly, recently retired plant manager from Rohm & Haas, will be working with associations and companies to help ensure a good return across the four counties. More details will be available at the next GC-PIN meeting.

Amy Holloway will be returning on March 4 and she will be meeting with small focus groups in each of the four counties (Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston and Harris).

Youth to Energy Career Orientation Program

The deadline for the completion of the prototype Youth to Energy program is the end of February. It is anticipated that there will be full versions of the program "tool kit" for review at the GC-PIN meeting.

This 40 hour summer energy orientation program has an annual re-engagement component through college and into an energy/petrochemical/manufacturing related job. Young people will be tracked in the database for 5 to 7 years. Beginning in the summer of 2008, the program will target 1,000 young people per year to enter the program. A scholarship and sponsorship program is contained in the tool kit. This is an important pipeline strategy endorsed by the Greater Houston Partnership Workforce Committee.

Fast Track Process Technician Program

The purpose of this program is to provide feeder groups of recruits for this industry. This program has generated tremendous interest by the Houston ship channel companies. It is scheduled to be complete in "beta form" at the end of February. The initial funding to operate the inaugural class begins in September and recruitment can occur during the summer.

This program like the Youth to Energy career orientation program is developed and available for replication at all GC-PIN colleges.

The "tool kit" contains turn key materials for tracking, advertising, costing, etc. This program is designed for:

- Incumbent workers outside of the petrochemical industry
- Individuals with five or more years of successful job experience
- Those with mechanical/technical aptitude

The eight to ten week program will operate four evenings per week. The steps to program entry include:

1. A realistic job preview
2. A battery of assessments
3. Background check and drug testing

To successfully complete the program participants will be requested to:

1. Attend at least 90% of the program with no tardiness
2. Complete all written and hands on tests with a minimum of 70% correct scores
3. Contribute to the team goals

Participants who complete the program will be placed with petrochemical and refining companies. (Note: Participants will not be guaranteed a job – they must compete and may not be selected.) This is based on a similar model program in South Carolina when results generally ranged at 80% placement. Those who are not placed are receiving about $2,000 worth of free training. This program will be discussed briefly at the GC-PIN meeting.

High Growth Job Training Initiatives

Members of the GC-PIN are currently working on the submission for a Department of Labor grant due March 25. A draft list of recommended projects and funding will be presented at the next meeting. It is anticipated that $1,000,000 will be requested for a 2 year time period to assist in the three prong worker procurement strategy.