

RCTC Report January 2010

RCTC

Term III classes begin January 25. We are running 23 classes and have 165 students enrolled. This compares well with 08/09 when we had 25 classes and 166 students and is an increase in both students and classes from Term I of this year. Popular classes include Computer Basics, HVAC, and Electronics.

We begin a customized welding class for the Greater PA Regional Council of Carpenter's on January 25. This will be held at the Skill Center for ten members of the carpenter's union.

New Choices/ New Options

Last month I reported New Choices programs statewide had a 61% cut in the 2009-10 State Budget. More bad news arrived on January 14 when the Governor announced spending reductions in lieu of a \$500M deficit expected in June. The New Choices programs, along with other discretionary programs, were zeroed out in the revised budget. This was especially troublesome because we began a class on January 11th.

The good news is the Department of Labor & Industry did not want our programs to go into "budgetary reserve" and quickly found one million in WIA funds to make available for New Choices. This represents an additional cut of 22% but allows programs to continue if they are able.

At this time there is still much uncertainty and we have not yet received our actual allocation. PAWW will be meeting with L&I next week and regional meetings are taking place in early February. The New Choices class that began on January 11 is continuing and we plan to offer another next month.

Meetings

January 12	Erie County Assistance Office, Board Meeting
January 15	PA Women Work / New Choices conference call
January 19	PA Women Work / New Choices conference call