



Tenth ERIE Conference, 2012
The Skills Mismatch Problem:
How Bad Is It, and What Can We Do About It?

Tuesday July 17, 2012

Samuel P. "Pat" Black III Conference Center
Jack Burke Research and Economic Development Center
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

8:00 Continental Breakfast

8:30 Welcome

Dr. Donald Birx, Chancellor, Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

8:35 Introduction and Overview of the Conference

Dr. James Kurre, Director, ERIE, and Associate Professor of Economics

8:40 The Erie Labor Market

Dr. James Kurre, Director, ERIE, and Associate Professor of Economics

Jim will set the backdrop for the day by presenting an overview of the Erie labor market, focusing on the occupational mix locally compared to the nation, and including some comments on the nature of the problem.

9:15 Fighting The Jobs War in Erie County

Jake Rouch, Vice President, Economic Development Division, Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership

Jake will build his comments around Jim Clifton's best seller, "The Coming Jobs War," and integrate specific statistics from the Chamber's Project Jobs initiative and other workforce related initiatives underway within the region.

9:45 Recruiting from the Local Labor Market and Tools to Bridge the Skill Gap

Joe Miceli, BWDP Program Supervisor, Pennsylvania CareerLink-Erie

Labor recruitment is subject to the same rules of supply and demand that govern all trading. Through charts and graphs Joe will reveal what our local labor market is telling us and then detail exactly how the CareerLink® can quickly and efficiently assist business with recruiting talent from the local labor market. Joe will also explain the tools the CareerLink® uses to train out-of-work individuals for the skills needed in the workplace – thus doing much to bridge the skill gap.

10:15 BREAK with refreshments

10:30 What Have We Learned about Labor Market Dynamics from New Data—and How Can It Be Used?

Dr. Julia Lane, Senior Managing Economist, American Institutes for Research

New data on job dynamics show very high levels of job creation and destruction – as well as the churning of workers within and across industries. The new data, which are available at the county, WIA, and metro area level, can show where workers are being hired, at what earnings level, in which industries – and at which educational level. Such information can be used to help target job placement and recruitment efforts, identify industry hotspots, and help locate geographic areas of labor market opportunity.

11:30 Panel Discussion: So What Can We Do About It?

Moderator: Dr. James Kurre, Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Panel Members:

- Dr. Donald Birx, Chancellor, Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
- Mr. Dale Deist, Chairman of the Board, Manufacturer & Business Association, and Founder, Deist Industries, Hadley PA
- Senator Jane Earll, 49th District, Pennsylvania State Senate
- Dr. Aldo Jackson, Director, Erie County Technical School

12:15 LUNCH

1:15 Introduction: Robert Schaub, Vice President and Pittsburgh Senior Regional Officer, Pittsburgh Branch, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland

Monetary Policy in Challenging Times

Sandra Pianalto, President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland

Ms. Pianalto will focus on the Fed, her role as a voting member of the Federal Open Market Committee (the group that decides the Fed's policy), and monetary policy actions taken in recent years in the extraordinary environment the country has faced. There will be time for questions from the audience.

2:00 Adjournment

Thanks to our friends at the **Erie Times-News** for helping us spread the word!



is an applied research unit of the Sam and Irene Black School of Business
Penn State Erie, the Behrend College