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News

500 people brave weather for local job fair

By TRISH BENNETT
STAFF WRITER

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Even a near-blizzard Tuesday morning did not deter nearly 500 job seekers from attending the Project Hire event sponsored by the Pickaway, Fairfield and Ross County Jobs One-Stop offices.

Armed with resumes and dressed for success, 492 people met and discussed job openings with 26 employers who turned out for the multi-county event, according to Jan Shannon, director.

"When I saw 100 people sitting there by 9:15 a.m., that exceeded my expectations for the whole day," Shannon said. "It made a great impression on the employers, too, and they were saying if these people are dedicated enough to come out in weather like this and truly want a job, those are the kinds of people they want to hire."

Only nine or 10 of the scheduled companies were unable to attend due to snow, she said. Many of the ones who did make it, though, were doing preliminary screenings and interviews on the spot.

Shannon said job seekers traveled from as far away as Scioto, Seneca, Mercer and Perry Counties to attend the job fair.

"There were people in a multitude of different situations," she said. "Some had recently been laid off, some had been laid off a long time and some were relocating to this area and just looking for work. Part of our marketing was focused on people receiving unemployment in our three counties, and considering the weather, this was a huge success."

Shannon said she hopes the state will provide funding for a similar local event in May. In the meantime, the 21st annual Job Expo will be held at the Shoemaker Center at Ohio University - Chillicothe from noon to 4 p.m. March 23.

For additional employment assistance, job seekers also may contact the Pickaway County office at 160 Island Rd. or on the Web at www.pickawayjobs.com.

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Nearly 500 people turned out Tuesday for the Project Hire job fair event hosted by multi-county Jobs One-Stop offices at AMVETS.

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