



Pike CAC Business Development and Employment/Training Program merge

STAFF REPORT

Effective Jan. 1, the Business Development Program and the Employment and Training Program offered by the Community Action Committee (CAC) of Pike County have merged to form the Workforce & Business Development Program.

"The merger and name

change reflect the consolidation of two programs that serve a similar client dynamic," state Keith Pitts, executive director for CAC of Pike County. "The Workforce & Business Development Program will still provide all of the services under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), as well as assist area small businesses in

providing business development services. The programs fit well together and can offer a better client experience as a comprehensive program."

The program, says Pitts, will offer "expertise in small business services, free income tax preparation, financial literacy, as well as WIOA and TANF programs and services to prepare

adults and youth facing serious barriers to employment."

The Workforce & Business Development Program is an active partner of OhioMeansJobs, which assists locals with job search, career planning, and access to community resources.

SEE MERGE ON PAGE A3

MERGE

Continued from page A1

The OhioMeansJobs Resource Center will continue to be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Workforce & Business Development staff members will be located at the CAC of Pike County's main office, located at 941 Market Street in Piketon.

"I believe the merger of the departments is a win-win for all involved," said Pitts. "Having the programs together as one program allows us to offer services directly that previously had to be completed by a refer-

ral process. The new program will allow a more universal approach to helping individuals and businesses."

Lisa Pfeifer, Workforce & Business Development Program director, says she is "excited to lead this very talented group of people in continuing to offer employment and small business services to our community."

"I am looking forward to enhancing the program," said Pfeifer.

Workforce & Business Development Services will include career readiness workshops, customized training, occupational classroom training, on-the-job training, internship

training, youth programs, and resume-development services.

"Monies are allocated specifically for youth between the ages of 14-24, adults who are unemployed or are incumbent workers, individuals unemployed, and individuals with little or no work experience," said Pitts. "Youth applicants must meet 100 percent of the Poverty Guidelines or 70 percent of the Lower Living Standard income levels (whichever is highest), or must meet specified criteria. Adult applicants must meet 200 percent of the poverty guidelines, and dislocated workers must have a notice of permanent layoff or plant

closure prior to enrollment."

Small Business services offered, including to start-ups, include small business classes, one-on-one training and technical assistance, computer training in Excel and QuickBooks, and a Small Business Loan Program which offers financing to individuals in Jackson, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Adams, Brown, and Lawrence Counties who want to "start, expand, or purchase a small business."

For more information, call the CAC of Pike County at (740) 289-2371 or toll free at (866) 820-1185, or visit workforcebusinessdevelopment.org.