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Summary: November 15 IT Council Membership Meeting

Thank you to everyone for making the November IT Council membership meeting another great success. Below, please see the highlights from last Thursday's meeting...

*A very special thanks to Bruce Raak and Destiny Stone with Jackson National Life Insurance for their presentation of the JNL "grow your own" program. We appreciate them offering to share their experiences regarding the development of their unique assessment tools and Programmer Trainee Classes--which they have successfully used to help supplement their other recruitment/retention efforts. Who would have thought that an IT assessment tool could correctly recognize that many music majors have the basic aptitude needed to be good programmers? Makes you wonder what other pools of talent are still out there waiting to be tapped by our industry...

*Thanks also to Bob Thelen for talking about the incumbent worker training program, and his role as the Chief Training Officer at CAMW—Bob will continue to be a valuable resource in my efforts to assist you with obtaining skills upgrades for your staff...

*A lot of progress has been made in regards to each of our standing committees—below are overviews of some of our current initiatives...

*The IT Council Education and Training Committee is in the process of developing and implementing tools to Inventory local education and training resources, to address one of the objectives outlined by our RSA. They are also continuing to explore ways local employers can use "work based learning" opportunities to connect with area high school and college students. We already know of a handful of students who have been placed into employment and/or paid internships as a result of the "Career ExhibIT" program, and want to know about any of the similar successes you have had connecting with the leads generated through our efforts so we can work to retain even more of our local talent.

*The Marketing and Public Relations Committee introduced the "IT Tips" media sheet and creation of IT Council speaker's bureau to promote more of the positive news stories about our local IT industry. In addition, the Marketing Committee recently rolled out some efforts to help with web site registration/membership drive activities—please make their job easier by registering on the site today or helping promote the IT Council to other area employers.

*The Recruitment/Retention Committee has scheduled its first “Tech Tour” for November 30. This retention tool is designed to raise awareness among college students of what our local IT industry and community have to offer. The first downtown “Tech Tour” will feature visits to the Lansing Board of Water and Light’s IT department, Vision Creative, Sparrow Hospital’s IT department, and Spartan Internet—along with a tour of the Arbaugh Lofts then wrapping up with a social/networking hour at “The Firm”. The Recruitment/Retention Committee also launched “Project MillTary”—which is intended to identify military personnel with computer and other technical skills and help them transition from military service into civilian employment—a resource guide is being developed and several local employers will be piloting the project over the next few weeks.

*As noted in last Thursday’s email, the Organizational and Membership Committee has recommended that we move forward with plans to adopt bylaws and elect the IT Council Operating Board at the next membership meeting on January 17 (please refer to last Thursday’s email or contact me if you would like more information.) Again, it is extremely important that you log onto the IT Council web site (www.capitalareaitcouncil.org) and register as a user so you can review the draft bylaws and participate in this process...

*Finally, there were general announcements about our recent meetings with MSU College of Business/Center for the Leadership of the Digital Enterprise, MSU CPATH Team, and LCC Media Arts Information Technologies. There were also requests for members to participate with the “Career Connections” STRA “Work Based Learning” initiative, and reminders that Employer clients are still needed for MSU live case projects (please contact me for more information about any of these initiatives.)

Correction: Date for Next Organizational and Membership Committee Meeting

Please note that the date for the next Organizational and Membership Committee meeting is Tuesday, December 4 from 12-2pm at Capital Area Michigan Works!—located at 2110 S. Cedar St. in Lansing (it was incorrectly listed as being a Wednesday in the email that was sent out last Thursday.)

Volunteers Needed: Web Site Support and Membership Activities

For those of you who are looking for more ways to participate, we are currently seeking volunteers to help out with...

*Membership Activities—IT Council members who can assist the Marketing and Public Relations Committee with some of their ongoing membership efforts

*Web Support—including 1-2 individuals with some technical expertise, and another 1-2 individuals who can help with basic administrative functions for the site.

*Speaker’s Bureau—IT Council member employers who would make themselves available to talk with media

If you are available and willing to help out, please contact me at: 517-492-5592 or via email at: cknapp@camw.net.

Announcement: CAMW Annual Dinner and Alumni Celebration

"The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn."

--Alvin Toffler

Economic Transformation Through Education

Capital Area Michigan Works! and its councils, with Career Connections invite you and your guest to our Annual Dinner and Alumni Celebration at the East Lansing Marriott (located at University Place--300 M.A.C. Avenue, East Lansing) on Thursday, December 6 (social hour begins at 5pm with dinner at 6:30pm.)

Join us and guest speaker Michael Flanagan, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and help us in recognizing our alumni and employers of the Year. Your reply is requested by November 29 by calling 517-492-5574

Notice: CoreComm Closing Its Doors

The County has received a letter notifying them of the pending closure of CoreComm Internet Services, Inc. As a result of a consolidation of certain operations with those in western New York, they will permanently close their facility at 4660 S. Hagadorn Rd., Ste 420, East Lansing. Approximately 69 employees of the facility will have their employment terminated as a result of this closing. The positions include technical and help desk support, billing services, customer and sale service personnel, and others. None of the employees at this facility are represented by a union. The positions will be terminated as a result of a closure over a 14 day period commencing on January 10, 2008. Employees are being provided with 60 days notice of the plant closing and CoreComm has notified MI Bureau of Workforce Programs, City of East Lansing, Clinton County, and the East Lansing Public School District.

Please let me know if you are currently looking for individuals with these skills and/or could assist us with placing any of these IT professionals with other local companies. I can be reached at: 517-492-5592 or via email at: cknapp@camw.net.