

COPC Meeting

11/7/2006

8:30 to 9:30

Attendees

Deborah Curtis, Michael Jeswald, Donna Horton – Hospitality Training & Research Center

Mike Skowronski – Office of Career Development, Julianne Galie – Housing Authority

Jill Shuey – COPC

Unable to attend

Claudia Miller, Willie Dunn, Al Oddo, Charles Giles, Judith Tederous, Vincent Agnello, Fran Boltz

Free Tax Help

Jill reviewed that Al Oddo will be on sabbatical next semester, but still involved in the project

Mike Skowronski suggested that in addition to our COPC area, that we open this up to the community

Promote thru

Niagara Co. Employment Training

Flyer inserts

Bulletins

Community Centers

Inner City Schools – School Newspaper

The Reporter

Hospital (ER)

Casino

Hotels

Senior Centers

Churches – Jill said Dave has contacts at the area churches

Julianne:

Stated they did this last year and got at least 100 people and offered service from 9am until 9pm with scheduled 30 minute appointments (the appointments need to be reconfirmed). They had problems with those coming for assistance giving false information.

Debbie will contact Kara from NFHA and check if she will coach the students on what problems to look out for.

If Kara can't, Debbie stated she could coach students on Know your customer".

Materials-

Flyer Inserts for Posters - (have 2 different poster series)

One geared toward employment assistance and another geared toward financial literacy.

The financial literacy poster – One insert will be promoting financial literacy programs and one insert promoting free tax help. (one side tax information – sign up, what they need to bring, hours, location. Other side – how to replace your SS card, hints for saving money)

Donna will email Al Oddo to get a list of materials they need to bring, and find out where they promoted last year.

Need information by last week of November to get flyers printed and ready for December.

Booklet to glance through while taxes are being done on money management and advice – “the High cost of Being poor” Series by the Buffalo News.

Training of students will be done by the COPC office (Nicole and Chris – Student Coordinators)

Students from

Beta Alpha Psi Chapter

COPC Office

Accounting Students

Al Oddo checks all work of students and then he sends it off electronically

There was concern of marketing extensively outside our main area of focus – with Al on sabbatical and this not being part of a required course – Will we have the students to follow through, and will Al be able to check the returns. Mike Skowronski will check with Al

Jill stated they will have ½ of what they had last year (75 last year) and will talk to Fran about training non-accounting students

Students will be responsible for their own transportation outside of the Learn & Serve available 8am to 5pm.

Bus Routs – Metro goes by office

Locations – Start at ONE SITE / Claudia is handling locations and times

COPC Office

NF High School

Decided to have the location at the COPC office on Main street.

Have a variety of hours (evening also) Jill Shuey or someone from COPC will be there at all times for the protection of the students

Per Jill – start week of Jan 22nd or maybe as early as Jan 8

Question was brought up how many people bring their children? Julianne stated last year no one had children with them.

Suggestions for Financial Literacy Training -

Banks: Bank of America, contact Kathy Miller – Mike Skowronski will contact Kathy

HSBC – 1655 Military Rd, Niagara Falls, NY / (716) 297-6503 (Phil)

1st Niagara - 7350 Niagara Falls Boulevard Niagara Falls, NY 14304 (716)-283-0749 (Jim)

Consumer Credit Counseling

Center City Neighborhood Development Corp.

Credit Unions

Niagara Choice – 3619 Packard Road, Niagara Falls NY (716) 284-4110

Manager Office Operations

Sharon DiPasquale..... ext. 207

Marketing

Deb Butler..... ext. 203

Niagara Federal (OXY)

Rediform Federal Credit Union – 3236 Lockport Road, Niagara Falls NY
(716) 284-2430

Advanced Business Certification Program

November will be the Kick off

January 30 will get the needs "Needs assessment done"

February – Topics from the Needs assessment

Jill stated Dave wanted input on the Advance Business Certificate Program

Regarding Location, time and should we charge a fee

Location - at Main Street was agreed upon

Time – It was agreed that 6:30 to 8:30 instead of 7:30 to 9:30 would be better. People wont want to go home and then back out again, better to get them on their way home.

Fee – Much discussion on charging a fee

Debbie and Michael Jeswald have always gone with the philosophy of if you charge a small amount people tend to see it as a legitimate program. Kick off to be free, but once they see how beneficial the seminars will be, they will be willing to pay a small price (say \$25 per class or \$100 for all 8). Have scholarships available for those who just can not afford to pay.

Mike Skowronski and Julianne feel that the business community has been taxed to death and some of them are just surviving. They feel people will be interested until they see it will cost money and it will discourage them on taking the seminars.

It was stated that Mike Skowronski and Julianne know the community better and would be a better judge on if to charge a fee or not.

Mike Skowronski. went back and forth between yes and no, he decided to think more on it. Jill will review with Vince and Dave