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July 7, 2020

First Ever Statewide Job Fair July 15; Drive Thru Only Ensures a Safe Experience for Job Seekers

While the majority of Wisconsin's Job Centers remain closed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the number of those unemployed remains stubbornly high, the Fox Valley Workforce Development Board (FVWDB) has announced the scheduling of its regional Drive Thru Job Fair from 12-4 pm at the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce parking lot, 120 Jackson Street, Oshkosh.

“Every single Wisconsin resident is aware of someone who has been impacted through reduced hours or a job loss as a result of the pandemic,” said Anthony Snyder, CEO of the FVWDB. “Many others may still be on furlough and not aware if they will ever be recalled to their old jobs. Combined with the extra \$600 federal benefit coming to an end in July and people are scared of how they'll pay rent or that next car payment.”

“Despite the staggering economic impacts of COVID in Wisconsin, there are still many employers looking to fill jobs,” said Caleb Frostman, Secretary of the Department of Workforce

Development. “We are grateful to our staff and great workforce board partners around the state for delivering innovative, effective virtual job services since COVID hit. We appreciate this creative, outside-the-box event from our partners across the state to connect employers and job seekers during this challenging time.”

While the May numbers from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show that Wisconsin state's unemployment rate fell to 12.0 percent from April's revised rate of 13.6 percent there are still more than 371,000 unemployed people in Wisconsin.

“With most of Wisconsin’s job centers closed and nearly 400,000 people unemployed we had to do something,” said Snyder. “We know that people are confused as to what their next steps should be in these unprecedented times and this is a safe, convenient solution to help get them started on their job search.”

The FVWDB’s Drive Thru Job Fair is being held in partnership with the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce. Each car entering the lot will receive a packet of materials listing open roles throughout the Fox Valley region and surrounding area. The Oshkosh location was chosen as it is somewhat central to all residents of Workforce Development Area 4, which includes the counties of Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago. Attendees are asked to remain in their cars and to wear a facemask.

“We are impressed by the array of companies that have chosen to provide information on open roles – from entry level to seasoned professionals,” said Snyder. “We have enough packets for 300 cars and we expect to give them all away rain or shine.”

Information about job fairs that will take place from noon-4 PM on July 15, including all locations throughout the state and instructions for job seekers can be found at the following link: <https://www.wwda.org/drive-thru-job-fair>.

FVWDB operates five job centers in the region, all currently closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Individuals who are permanently unemployed and unable to attend the drive-thru job fair are invited to use the data collection form on the job center web site to find a supportive professional ready to assist with your job search at foxvalleyjobcenters.com. Alternatively, individuals can reach staff at the Fond du Lac Job Center at (920) 929-3900 or the Fox Cities Job Center/Menasha at (920) 997-3272.

For more information on the Fox Valley Job Centers or the work of the Fox Valley Workforce Development Board, please visit www.foxvalleywork.org or call 920-720-5600.

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Fox Valley Workforce Development Board (FVWDB) is a not-for-profit building a world-class workforce in northeast Wisconsin. Serving six counties — Calumet, Green Lake, Fond du Lac, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago — FVWDB collaborates with a number of state and local workforce partners to help job seekers gain the skills needed to find employment and help businesses find the highly skilled workers they need.

FVWDB is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Service Provider.

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