



Launch of One-Stop Re-Employment Resource For State Employees in Our Region

Tallahassee, Fla. – With state budget reductions having a significant impact on Tallahassee, organizations throughout the community have collaborated to launch BigBendWorks.com - - a one-stop re-employment resource for state employees who work or live in our eight-county region.

Tallahassee Community College took the lead on the initiative arranging the initial meeting and inviting key organizations throughout the community to come to the table with ideas and solutions regarding displaced-state workers.

As a result, BigBendWorks.com has launched featuring resources available within our community across six core focus areas, including job information, human services, training and re-training, career opportunities, as well as unemployment and financial resources. The website ensures state employees are connected to the information and tools needed for a seamless path and transition to re-employment.

“I was overwhelmed with how receptive partners were to take part in this initiative,” said Dr. Jim Murdaugh, President of Tallahassee Community College. “The entire community is in this together and it is our hope that this resource will help those affected find new career opportunities quicker.”

State employees seeking job information on BigBendWorks.com will find job openings and networking opportunities, along with information on career paths, refreshers and industry trends. Individuals will also find resources for training and re-training including quick-skills opportunities and financial assistance support.

“Ensuring that local displaced residents are provided the necessary tools to regain their stability is vital to our community’s well being,” said Kimberly Moore, CEO of WORKFORCE *plus*. “We look forward to playing an important role in assisting state workers and all those affected by recent layoffs with their new career paths.”

Human service information is also easily accessible on BigBendWorks.com and covers a variety of topics including crisis assistance, emotional support, as well as food, health, housing and utility assistance.

“Beyond the need to identify a new career, human service providers recognize that our community’s citizens are also seeking immediate, tangible resources that they can continue to provide food and shelter to their families during their transition,” said Randy Nicklaus, president of 2-1-1 Big Bend.

In addition, unemployment and financial resources are also available covering a variety of questions that individuals may be searching for the answers to.

“The Chamber and its affiliates understand that we are all in this together, and the state budget cuts not only affect our community citizens but our local businesses as well,” said Sue Dick, president of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce. “We want to do our part to ensure a vibrant business sector in the region and help our state employees get back to work as quickly as possible.”

Businesses and organizations with resources and available jobs are encouraged to submit information to the website. For more information on this initiative, visit BigBendWorks.com.

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About BigBendWorks.com:

BigBendWorks.com is an informal coalition of public agencies, non-profit organizations and private companies, united to provide displaced state employees with resources to aid in a seamless transition to re-employment. Offering resources in focus areas of employment and networking, support services, career exploration, training opportunities, unemployment benefits and financial resources, this comprehensive site ensures state employees are connected to tools that will help ease the stress that comes with the loss of a job. This service was created to assist state employees who live or work in the eight-county region of Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla, Jefferson, Liberty, Franklin, Madison and Taylor counties. The organizations of Big Bend Works believe that former state employees are valuable to the Big Bend Region.

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