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Local News

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Employers busy at job fair

About 500 looking for work attend event at First Christian Church

By John Hinton
KERNERSVILLE JOURNAL EDITOR

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KERNERSVILLE

Stephen M. Douglas of Belews Creek came to the Triad Job Fair last Thursday looking for a job in office management.

Douglas said he worked for FedEx Corp. in Winston-Salem for nearly 20 years before losing his job in November. He was among about 500 people who attended the job fair at First Christian Church on North Main Street.

Douglas spoke with recruiters representing the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, Temporary Resources Inc. and Moses Cone Health System.

Douglas, who is receiving unemployment compensation, said he was earning about \$21 an hour in his job with FedEx. He learned before he came to the job fair that potential employers are offering jobs that pay \$9 to \$12 an hour.

He said he might have to accept a job at the lower wage. Douglas, who wants a job with benefits, said he would consider applying for a job through Temporary Resources at its office in Winston-Salem.

He said he distributed six resumes at the job fair, and he has sent out 50 resumes during his job search.

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The job fair had 25 employers with local companies and agencies such as Novant Health, Truliant Federal Credit Union, Dudley Products Inc., Flood Coverings International, the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation and Triad Water Treatment.

Recruiters with Novant Health and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools had a stream of job applicants. The school system had a poster next to its table that advertised jobs for part-time and substitute school-bus drivers. The starting pay is \$12.61 an hour.

The unemployment rate in the Winston-Salem metropolitan statistical area declined slightly in December to 4.3 percent, the N.C. Employment Security Commission reported in late January.

The rate was 4.4 percent in November. The state's unemployment for December was 5 percent.

Darlene Beers said that her job prospects looked promising as she attended her first job fair. She moved to Kernersville in December 2007 after her husband accepted a job transfer.

She said she was looking for a job for the first time in 18 years. Beers had worked previously at a medical-device manufacturer in Northampton, Pa.


"If you are looking for job, there is one to be found," she said.


John Edwards of Winston-Salem filled out an application before he looked for an entry-level job. He graduated in June 2007 from Glenn High School.


■ *John Hinton can be reached at 727-7299 or at jhinton@wsjournal.com.*
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