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NEWS

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RochesterWorks! Offers New Career Readiness Credential

Gives Job Seekers an Edge in Job Search and Helps Businesses Improve Hiring and Retention

*Rochester, New York—January 9, 2008—*Job seekers can now get the nationally recognized and portable WorkKeys Career Readiness Credential at RochesterWorks! The Credential will give them an edge in applying for jobs and also help employers hire and retain the most qualified and trainable candidates.

The WorkKeys Career Readiness Credential certifies that job seekers have the core employability skills - in math, reading and locating information - that are required across all industries and occupations. The program is being provided at no charge to both job seekers and employers. RochesterWorks! is one of only six official assessment testing centers in New York State.

The WorkKeys program measures “real world” skills that employers believe are critical to job success. It is valuable for any occupation and at any level of education; connecting work skills, training, and testing.

It can help adult job seekers improve opportunities for career changes and advancement and identify training needs. It can help youth demonstrate their trainability to employers and prepare for the future.

“In preparation for the launch we selected an experienced staff in administration of assessment and technical implementation,” said Connie Felder, Deputy Director of RochesterWorks! “They have gone through extensive training for the past three months. In addition, effectively immediately we are extending our hours on Tuesday evenings to accommodate employed individuals who want to schedule testing.”

Job seekers can take the computer-based assessments in two dedicated computer labs at RochesterWorks! Career Center at 255 North Goodman Street but testing can also be done with paper and pencil at off-site locations.

Tracy Check, Manager of Assessment Services says, "Another important element in the program's introduction is to notify employers of the value of the Career Readiness Credential and how it can benefit their businesses."

Businesses can use the WorkKeys program to save time and money associated with turnover, training, and hiring, while meeting the validity and fairness requirements of EEOC and ADA guidelines.

"Our Business Services staff members are meeting with area employers to talk about the benefits and provide information. Details may also be found online at www.rochesterworks.org," added Check.

For more information employers may contact Christina Bakewicz, Business Services Representative at (585) 232-5232 or cbakewicz@rochesterworks.org. Adult and youth job seekers may call (585) 258-3500.

RochesterWorks! is dedicated to helping Monroe County develop a strong workforce. RochesterWorks! helps job seekers find jobs, move to higher paying jobs or get training to improve skills. RochesterWorks! assists businesses with recruitment, assessment, placement and training, and connects them to all federally funded employment and training programs in Monroe County. RochesterWorks! has helped attract millions of dollars in funding to support Monroe County companies and organizations.

Services are available at two convenient full service Career Centers at 255 North Goodman Street and 276 Waring Road in Rochester. Training services are available at our satellite center at the Center for Workforce Development at 3545 Buffalo Road. Services are free of charge.

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