

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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County Offers Strategies for Tight Job Market *Short-term vocational training can provide competitive boost for jobseekers*

Belmont, California –While California climbs slowly out of the recession, job seekers still find themselves in a flooded market vying for a limited number of jobs. Like much of California, San Mateo County has been hit hard by reductions in workforce across a variety of industries, from biotechnology, banking, and information technology, to cutbacks in county government staffing due to the State’s budget crisis. San Mateo County’s August unemployment rate of 9.2% represented an 84% increase over the 5.0% rate in July 2008. Additionally, residents participate in a regional labor market that includes neighboring Santa Clara, San Francisco, and Alameda counties; the overall unemployment picture for the region is far from bright, as a total labor force of almost 2.5 million people competes for scarce jobs.

“Between the first quarters of 2008 and 2009, we’ve seen an increase of 168% in the number of visits at PeninsulaWorks, our One-Stop Career Centers,” said County of San Mateo Workforce Manager Fred Slone. “There is a clear need to prepare workers for the new jobs and skills that are constantly changing and evolving here in Silicon Valley.”

This is why PeninsulaWorks is hosting a training resource fair that provides job seekers and laid off workers with information and tools about how to access federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus funding for short-term vocational training. Mini-orientations will be provided, to walk participants through the steps to qualify for funding and access other job-related resources. PeninsulaWorks’ eligible training providers will share information about the types of training and classes available through this special funding.

An event website at www.StimulusAtWork.org has been created to provide all of the details about the event’s activities. It also houses video success stories from real-life PeninsulaWorks’ customers who accessed Workforce Investment Act funding and turned their lives around. Like Janif, who was laid off after 17 years as an airline mechanic, and was able to

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retool his skills and transfer to another industry. Or Laurie, a single mother of two young children, who successfully completed a Certified Nursing Assistant training that lifted her into a new career. And, Tony who was laid off as a restaurant manager and accessed PeninsulaWorks' training resources that moved him into a higher wage Information Technology career.

The event takes place in Redwood City, October 29th, 2009, from 1:00 – 5:00 pm at 555 Marshall Street (corner of Middlefield and Marshall). There is hourly paid parking in the public lots, and on the street located under the movie theatre at Middlefield and Broadway, or at the street level at Middlefield and Jefferson, but public transportation is recommended. For more information, go to www.StimulusAtWork.org.

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The County of San Mateo Human Services Agency assists individuals and families to achieve economic self sufficiency, promotes community and family strength, and works to ensure child safety and well-being.