



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PROGRAM PROVIDES BUSINESSES WITH A LOW-COST WAY TO DEVELOP THE WORKERS THEY NEED

BARTLESVILLE, OK (September 14, 2011) – Brian Werts needed help. After three years as a maintenance supervisor at a Bartlesville water treatment facility, Brian was laid off. As he fruitlessly searched for employment, Brian realized his skill set simply didn't fit any of the jobs available to him in his area. Weeks of joblessness turned into months, and Brian found himself desperate for an income that would allow him to support his wife and children as well as avoid losing his home, a possibility that was becoming more and more realistic. That was when an innovative job training program offered by Workforce Oklahoma changed his life.

Workforce Oklahoma's On-the-Job Training (OJT) program reimburses employers for costs associated with training new employees. Employers keep full control, deciding who to hire and how to train them. Because training is planned, organized and conducted by employers at their workplace, they can customize the training to address their specific needs. An employer's local Workforce Oklahoma location will provide pre-screened applicants for the OJT position, assist in designing the individualized training, and reimburse the employer between 50 percent and 90 percent of the new hire's training costs during the training period. Assistance from Workforce Oklahoma is available at no cost to employers. Most unemployed Oklahoma workers laid off since January 1, 2008, who have been unemployed for more than 19 weeks are eligible to participate in the OJT program. This creates a situation where employers get the workers they need at a reduced cost, while long-term unemployed job seekers get back to work and expand their skills in a hands-on environment.

Brian was hired through the OJT program by Spears Manufacturing in February and finished his training in June. He now works as an injection molding operator with the manufacturer, and both employer and employee couldn't be happier with the results. In Brian's case, Spears Manufacturing was reimbursed more than \$4,300 to offset training-associated costs.

"It's been extremely successful for us," said Jason Moore, Human Resources Manager for Spears Manufacturing. "Big picture, it helps put people back to work in a field that they might otherwise not be able to get into. The bottom line is it gave us a better variety of candidates to choose from when hiring."

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OKLAHOMA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION

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The OJT program is open to workers in Adair, Canadian, Cherokee, Cleveland, Craig, Creek, Delaware, Logan, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Nowata, Oklahoma, Okmulgee, Osage, Ottawa, Pawnee, Rogers, Sequoyah, Tulsa, Wagoner, and Washington counties. In addition to Workforce Oklahoma, the Cherokee Nation and Seminole Nation each received funding from the U.S. Department of Labor to operate OJT programs in their respective areas.

For more information on the OJT program, employers and job seekers can contact Workforce Oklahoma at (888) 980-9675

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