

Retraining programs get some back on job

BY MIKE PERRAULT

The Desert Sun

Pete Delperdang spent sunny days last week atop roofs installing solar panels — and he couldn't be happier.

"The way the economy is right now, I just feel so lucky to have a job, let alone something that I've just been trained to do," Delperdang said.

Nate Otto, president of Palm Springs-based Hot Purple Energy, had no qualms about hiring Delperdang and several other previously unemployed people even though they had little or no experience.

Delperdang and others trained by tapping resources at the Workforce Development Center in Indio, then at the Desert Energy Enterprise Center at College of the Desert.

Green job training is just one in a wide range of training, retraining, education and funding opportunities aimed at returning people to the workforce.

Those who fell victim to the recession are returning to college classrooms to improve their skills in everything from computer information skills to vocational courses and business classes.

John Jaramillo, College of the Desert's dean of business and applied science, has seen many displaced workers return for credit programs in the career and technical education arena where hospitality management, landscape design, automotive and courses in 23 areas draw enrollees.

"What we notice is the average career and technical education student is generally a little older," Jaramillo said. "Most of them have been in the workforce and are coming back to retool and 're-skill' themselves."

Jaramillo said one 70-year-old lost his job and returned to learn accounting. He joined a bookkeeping firm and eventually started his own company, now employing three people.

College of the Desert also contracts with the state to offer economic workforce and development classes that provide industry certifications.

The Coachella Valley Economic Partnership's Career Pathways Program is helping to steer local students into the health care work force.

College of the Desert's Barker Nursing Complex educates and trains registered nurses, vocational nurses, nursing assistants, emergency medical technicians and others.

Career development managers at Kaplan College, for instance, are helping people become medical assistants, med-

Back in business

Many laid-off workers and those who are "underemployed" and looking to land better jobs are going back to school.

John Jaramillo, College of the Desert's dean of business and applied science, said students are enrolling in both traditional college credit programs and government-funded economic workforce and development non-credit classes.

Here are some of the more popular training programs:

- OSHA 30 course: Provides a lifetime national certification in safety.
- Microsoft Office specialist.
- Certified nursing assistant: Results in state certification with more than 100 hours of hands-on experience.
- Wind turbine technician: Often requires industry math classes and OSHA 30.
- Solar and renewable energy programs.
- Job-search skills, including resume assistance, identifying transferable skills, searching online for jobs.
- Career and technical education such as golf management, hospitality management, automotive, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, landscape design, horticulture, among 23 different study areas.
- Early childhood education that prepares daycare instructors and providers.
- Courses requested from businesses such as advanced customer service skills including problem-solving and stress-management; upgrades to computer skills, particularly intermediate to advanced Word and Excel.

ical office specialists and medical practice managers, one of about 14 study areas the college offers.

Some laid-off workers have moved back into some agribusiness fields, hospitality careers and other fields.

Making commitments

Many valley construction workers such as Delperdang have gone back to school or have sought retraining for new careers.

Delperdang spent nearly three months learning about the solar industry and OSHA safety issues. Although it's not real-world experience, Otto said it familiarizes prospective workers with the industry and provides a good educational foundation to build on.

"I'm very happy with them, and I expect to be working with them for many years in the future," said Otto, whose firm installs and retrofits solar systems as well as providing other alternative energy services across the Coachella Valley. "They made a commitment to change their lives and go into this industry," Otto said.

Laid-off workers see promise in the green industry. A year ago, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger used wind turbines north of Palm Springs as a backdrop to propose the California Jobs Initiative to funnel \$500 million in incentives to companies for green job training and to hire new employees.

Solar energy company CEOs said training certainly helps, but installing solar panels and tackling other renewable-energy tasks is not a job for everyone. Some workers lack the stomach for heights, strong knees or the physical stamina.

No shortage of training

The federal government spends \$18 billion a year on job training programs, according to a Government Accountability Office report released in February.

It noted that nine different agencies run 47 different job training programs, but GAO found "little is known about the effectiveness" of the programs.

Often, job seekers and companies find government training programs and funding opportunities complicated.

California's job retraining system includes community colleges, the California State University system, adult education schools, community-based training agencies and private proprietary schools.

The Workforce Development Center receives various funding, and a wide variety of valley companies and organizations look to WDC for help to train and educate new workers, or to subsidize on-the-job training, said Beatrice Putz, WDC assistant regional manager.

"The first step is (WDC) customers

hear about our services and we evaluate them," Putz said.

Workforce Development Center counselors determine which training programs are appropriate based on a person's background and skill levels.

Wendy Frederick, principal development specialist for the Workforce Development Center, said most of the stimulus money received for the desert region goes toward contracting with College of the Desert to provide various types of training.

"We also developed other training through UCR Extension and Renova GreenZone and Cal State San Bernardino Extension for renewable energy and green building/tech training," Frederick said.

Workforce Development Center pays for on-the-job training with some companies and internships.

Dan Bass, executive director of Jewish Family Services of the Desert, obtained a grant through the Workforce Development Center to help subsidize the nonprofit's costs as a new hire was training.

Bass said the new hire had basic job skills but needed to learn the agency's systems, how it interacted within the community and other issues.

Human resources managers in the valley emphasized that just because unemployed workers enroll in retraining programs, there is certainly no guarantee they'll find jobs once they've completed a program.

There are many success stories, however.

Jaramillo recalled one accountant who lost his job and took a wind turbine technician course. The man was hired as an accountant for a wind turbine company.

Karyn Marmo, manager of administration and transitional living at ABC Recovery Center, is grateful to development specialist George Puddephatt and others at WDC in Indio for helping her find jobs for her clients, many of whom have limited schooling or who've never had a "legal" job in their lives.

"(WDC) provides workshops and classes that target job skills and what it takes to get back in the fray," Marmo said.

A program for parolees called New Start has provided training, work boots and tools, but funding has been cut.

"I have two employees who were hired as the direct result of a program EDD offers (that) subsidizes the first 90 days of employment with a company."

Shutdown's effect on job figures debatable

BY RICHARD WOLF

USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Would a partial government shutdown—or the spending cuts needed to avoid it—risk the nation's economic recovery and nascent job creation?

President Obama says it could. Republican leaders in Congress say it wouldn't. Economists are split roughly down the middle.

A stopgap measure will keep the government running through March 18. On Thursday, the White House proposed more than \$6 billion in spending cuts as Vice President Biden, White House chief of staff Bill Daley and budget chief Jacob Lew headed to Capitol Hill for budget discussions with House and Senate leaders from both parties.

As the first potential shutdown in 15 years looms, the debate over cutting the federal budget has morphed to include a dispute about jobs and economic growth.

Obama started the debate last month by saying too much budget-cutting "could endanger the recovery" and a shutdown "would be destabilizing."

"People don't get their Social Security checks. They don't get their veterans payments. Basic functions shut down," Obama said at a news conference after unveiling his 2012 budget. "That, also, would have an adverse effect on our economic recovery."

In the days that followed, several reports criticized House Republicans' vote to cut \$61 billion from the 2011 budget by the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30:

- Goldman Sachs said the measure could reduce economic growth by as much as 2 percentage points from April to September. Obama's budget projects 2.7 percent growth this year.
- Moody's Analytics forecast that the GOP spending cuts could cost 700,000 jobs by the end of 2012. The nation gained nearly 1 million jobs in 2010 after losing 5 million in 2009.

THEY'LL GET ALONG WITHOUT YOU

START BUILDING

The Desert Sun
careerbuilder.com
mydesert.com

© 2007 CareerBuilder, LLC. All rights reserved.

<p>Administrative/Managerial</p> <p>Medical Secretary/Admin.Asst. Knowledge of software programs, medical terminology req./ Freq. interaction with patients and vendors. Sensitivity to confidential matters req./ Financial counseling regarding insurance/authorization/insurance eligibility/track auths. Salary open. Call for interview. Ask for Ted Daniels, 760.341.5501 concierge@fusioncare.com</p>	<p>Employment Opportunities</p> <p>Caretaker, CNA or equivalent; sleep in, for partially disabled but active, widowed physician; cooking & housekeeping. Please contact Dianne at 760.778-3454 or FAX Resume including references to 760.778.3468</p> <p>CHILD CARE WORKER Full/Part Time, weekends, weekdays and overnight. 760-251-8858 or Fax to 760-329-8889</p> <p>DIRECT CARE Needed for D.D. Group Home. MUST have experience working w/adults and behaviors. 2pm-10pm, or 10pm-6am \$10-\$12/hr. 1st aid/CPR, fingerprint clear, DMV printout. Call 760-327-3735 EOE</p>	<p>Employment Opportunities</p> <p>Marriott VACATION CLUB INTERNATIONAL</p> <p>Discover a Destination for Your Success</p> <p>Ready to grow your dream career while making others' vacation dreams come true? Join Marriott Vacation Club International, and you can make it happen. For over 25 years, we've been the world's Premier organization for Vacation Ownership, with resorts at sought-after destinations around the globe. Shadow Ridge is currently hiring Sales Executive Professionals. Learn more at our</p> <p>VIP Career Night March 11, 4:30-7:00 903 Shadow Ridge Road Palm Desert, CA 92211 RSVP to Daisy Romano daisy.romano@vacationclub.com Phone: 760-674-2762</p> <p>Start your journey now by applying at http://careers.marriottvacationclub.com</p> <p>Marriott Vacation Club International is an equal opportunity employer committed to employing a diverse work force and sustaining an inclusive culture.</p>	<p>Employment Opportunities</p> <p>WYNDHAM WORLDWIDE DIVISION</p> <p>VACATION OWNERSHIP IN-HOUSE SALES REPRESENTATIVES CAREER EVENT !!</p> <p>Worldmark by Wyndham, a division of Wyndham Vacation Ownership the World's largest timeshare company is looking for great personalities to join our Indio, CA Sales team!</p> <p>WE OFFER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New improved 2010 competitive compensation plan! • No cold calling or out of pocket expenses! • Face to Face Sales in our Beautiful Sales Center! • Fantastic Sales Training Program! • Great Daytime Hours! • Full Benefits within 30 Days of Hire! <p>Sales experience preferred and a California RE License is required. Please join us at our CAREER EVENT:</p> <p>Tues. Mar. 8th at 6:00pm Sharp Worldmark by Wyndham Resort 42151 Worldmark Way Indio, CA 92203 RSVP to elске.vanhemert@wyn.com. www.WyndhamJobs.com</p>
<p>Employment Wanted</p> <p>ONSITE MANAGER For 80 unit building. At least one year of experience. Spanish a plus. Please email resume to: whitesands@excelresidential.com</p>	<p>Employment Opportunities</p> <p>BARTENDER TRAINEES Earn \$150 - \$300 daily No experience necessary. See our Ad under SCHOOLS. American Bartenders School 760-779-8909</p>	<p>Employment Opportunities</p> <p>Dr. office is looking for Chemotherapy Nurse, RN & LPN's, Pharmacy Technician, Exp. Medical Assistant and full time & part time positions available. Benefits available. Send resumes to (760) 601-3242.</p>	<p>Employment Opportunities</p> <p>Human Resources Manager CITY OF RANCHO MIRAGE \$6532/mo. plus full benefits APPLY BY: 5:00 pm, March 21, 2011. For qualification info. & application materials visit www.RanchoMirageCA.gov or call 760.324-4511.</p>
<p>CAREGIVERS</p> <p>Experienced preferred. Great opportunities helping seniors in their homes. PT/FT and live-in positions available. Must have reliable transportation and current auto insurance. 760-771-6263</p>	<p>Medical</p> <p>Med Asst. for Surgeon Front & Back Office. Must have Experience. To apply see our ad on careerbuilder.com ad # 2000251072</p>	<p>There's always something going on.</p> <p>Check out our calendar to see what's happening around town at mydesert.com</p>	<p>EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p>SHELTER FROM THE STORM</p> <p>F/T Bilingual (English/Spanish) L.C.S.W.+L.C.S.W. for F/T & Time Limited positions; CA licensed. experience w/victims of violence & PTSD. Familiar with brief & long-term therapy for women and children. Also seeking Entry Level Bilingual Domestic Violence Advocate- Will Train. Mail resumes to 7355 Alessandro Dr., Palm Desert, CA 92260; FAX: 760-674-0440 or Email: susan@shelterfromthestorm.com</p>

So you think you can SELL?

Let's talk! The Desert Sun Media Group is recruiting for multi-media sales representatives. As a member of our team, you'll be selling multi-media advertising for The Coachella Valley's number-one source of news and information.

SHOW US WHAT YOU'VE GOT.

Sell us on you and together let's help our advertisers have a thriving 2011.

Please call (760) 322-2222 or visit mydesert.com and click on *Work For Us* at the bottom of the screen. We look forward to hearing from you!





DESERT SUN
MEDIA GROUP
We Deliver.

Please call (760) 322-2222 or visit mydesert.com and click on *Work For Us* at the bottom of the screen. We look forward to hearing from you!