



Stories

STRIVE new help for unemployed in Cass, Van Buren

Tuesday, February 3, 2009 10:34 AM EST

DECATUR - A new resource is available for Cass and Van Buren County jobseekers. STRIVE (Support and Training Results in Valuable Employees) is an international job-readiness training program that combines attitudinal and work-readiness training with job placement services. The program helps chronically unemployed jobseekers break the cycle of job loss and helps them find long-term employment.

The STRIVE program is ultimately beneficial for businesses, according to Todd Gustafson, executive director of Michigan Works!. "It's very expensive for employers to recruit and train employees who have a high turnover rate. Graduates of the STRIVE program are prepared with the basic skills to help them keep a job and succeed." The Benton Harbor and Decatur programs are funded by Michigan Works! and a grant from the Mott Foundation.

The program has existed in Benton Harbor since 2006, producing over 300 graduates. "We're committed to helping men and women earn a livable income and achieve financial independence," stated STRIVE Michigan's executive director, Jamar Baker. "Eighty-nine percent of our graduates have found employment or have enrolled in further education and training" The new office is located at 107 W. Delaware St., Unit 2, in Decatur. Call (269) 423-7200.