

What's happening in Employment

Able to Work Website

Summary report from Monique Johns at the SILC:

The website launched on January 13, 2013.

Since then, it has had 7,041 page views in Q1 (January to March 2013).

During Q1 there were typically 79 page views per day, with each visitor going to approximately 2 pages each time.

There were 3,499 total visitors during Q1, with an average of 39 visitors per day.

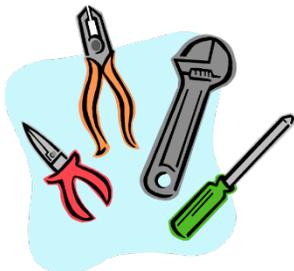
Next quarter Monique will provide our stakeholder group with a comparison report on how these numbers stack up quarter over quarter.

www.AbletoWork.idaho.gov



It's My Business EXPO

The first Idaho "It's My Business Expo" was held as part of the Tools for Life conference in Boise. Eight entrepreneurs participated in the Expo. They all had display tables with informational materials about their business, how they got started, resources they used, etc. Four of the participants had products for sale at the Expo and did very well. The Expo opened on Thursday afternoon and the evening reception was open to the public. Approximately 125-150 people visited the Expo over the 2 days. We would like to continue and grow this successful event at future Tools conferences.



2013 Tools for Life:

Secondary Transition and Assistive Technology Fair

Tools for Life was held in Boise on March 7-8 with an **Employment** theme. Council staff coordinated an Employment Track Workgroup

that planned and secured conference keynote presenters, local employer panel, and all employment track sessions.

There were 267 attendees at Tools for Life including 134 students from 33 school districts. Highlights of the conference include dynamic keynote presentations by John Evans and Dwayne Dyer; a panel of local employers who provided important tips to students about applying for and being successful in a job; the It's My Business Expo; and evening parent sessions.

Workstrides

Workstrides is a program that Idaho Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) is implementing this year. The program is meant to help transition age youth and young adults with disabilities to identify their strengths and weaknesses and help identify a vocational goal as well as work readiness. IDVR has experienced success and overall positive feedback from participants. The training is very interactive and individuals attend for one week of half days - a total of 20 hours. IDVR will be encouraging transition students to attend these trainings in the summer as appropriate, as well as possibly winter break as feasible. Times and locations vary throughout the state, but are being run about monthly, so there are a number of opportunities. The IDVR counselors will refer individuals to this program and classes are facilitated by IDVR staff.

Idaho Employment First Initiative Website

The Council has secured the domain address of employmentfirst.idaho.gov and Tracy will begin work soon to develop content for the site. She will work with Access Idaho to design and layout the initial site and then Tracy will follow-up with maintenance and updating information going forward.

Employment First Community of Practice

The Council and the Employment First Consortium (representing Idaho) is part of the US Department of Labor - Office on Disability Employment Policy **Employment First Community of Practice**. Being part of the EFCoP allows us to access information and resources including free monthly webinars with national experts talking about topics and issues related to the implementation of Employment First practices. We also have a state page for Idaho on the

ePolicyworks website so that our licensed Consortium members can upload and share information we are currently working on. We can also review information and resources developed/shared by other states.