

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ATTENTION: BUSINESS EDITOR

Local Chamber Member Films DVD for NCILC

PERU, ILLINOIS, February 29, 2008: Dislocated workers and high school graduate students now have an informational DVD to help them when making career choices in the transportation, warehousing, and distribution field. Local business owner and Peoria Chamber of Commerce Member, DeAnna Carlson of PDQ Courier, Inc., volunteered to film and produce the DVD for the North Central Illinois Works and North Central Illinois Logistics Council's (NCILC) school pilot program "Wheeling into the Schools".

Carlson teamed up with PDQ's great staff of employees to layout the project. The project included a story board, narrative script, props, wardrobe, filming, and editing.

There was a collaborative effort from many local companies to complete the project. The filming took place at Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC) and companies such as Target Corporation, PDQ Courier, Inc., Illini State Bank, Double D Express, and Advantage Logistics. The movie also includes scenes of the Historic Illinois & Michigan Canal, Illinois Valley Regional Airport, barge traffic on the Illinois River, and the current interchange of Routes 80 and 39.

The video draws attention to how the Warehousing and Distribution certificate can prepare career seekers for certain career paths and employment opportunities. In just a few short minutes, the concept of the Logistics Industry is established for someone who is exploring this field. Throughout the movie clear answers are provided as to how to break into the industry.

This educational video was originally filmed for students who are undecided about career options or college decisions. The video is not limited to the audience of high school age students. Any person looking to reenter the work force or make a necessary career change due to corporate downsizing will find the video useful.

Dislocated workers research career fields when their job is lost. Completing this curriculum will give the adult worker the opportunity to earn a fair income and stay in the area that their family is comfortable with. In a lot of instances relocation is not an option for a person with roots deep in the Illinois Valley Region.

Students may attend IVCC and complete a 16 credit hour certification program. The certificate prepares individuals for entry-level careers in the logistics industry. Upon completion of the courses a student increases their chance for employment at one of the

local warehousing and distribution facilities. Salaries start at an average of \$24,000 to \$32,000 with benefits that include health insurance, medical insurance, dental insurance, and 401K retirement savings plan.

The Warehousing and Distribution Certification Program was purchased for the Illinois Valley Community College as part of the State's Critical Skills Shortage Initiative, spearheaded locally by NCI Works. The State of Illinois purchased this curriculum to make it available to any Illinois community college. Sue Isermann, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs at IVCC, was the driving force to bringing this program to Oglesby, Illinois. Illinois Valley Community College is the first college in the state to offer this type of secondary education.

"IVCC is pleased to be a part of this promotional project and believes the collaborative effort will contribute to the successful development of the workforce to support the logistics industry." states Kathy Glascock, Dean of Career and Technical Programs, IVCC.

"We were so pleased that PDQ and other employers from our local logistics companies took the initiative to produce the DVD because it shows their serious commitment to recruiting youth for the many career opportunities that are available now and will be available in the future within this field. I know there is a Transportation/Warehousing/Logistics State Task Force that is looking into industry-led efforts to providing career awareness activities to youth, and I intend to share what we here in North Central Illinois are doing to carry out that intent." Pam Furlan, Executive Director of BEST, Inc., states.

The QuickTime movie will be available to view near March 7, 2008, at PDQ's website at www.pdqnow.com. This movie can also be viewed NCI Works' website at www.nciworks.com. The North Central Illinois Logistics Council Website will have the movie available at their website www.ncilc.com June 1, 2008.

The DVD will be presented by Carlson in local libraries. Carlson will be available to answer questions about the logistics industry. A schedule will be released in the upcoming weeks for library appearances.

The video has testimonial scenes from representatives of the local logistics industry. Tim Robey, Double D Express, states "Just because an employee starts on the dock, they may not finish their career there." Robey himself started on the dock and is now Double D Express's Truckload and Logistic Director. Wade Schneider, a warehouse employee, of Advantage Logistics also gives a testimonial about his participation in the classes and his seven year employment in the warehousing and distribution field.

"It has been very rewarding to work on and complete this project for the NCI Works Board and NCILC." Carlson stated. Carlson also added, "My Staff and I had a lot of fun working on this project. I believe this is a good tool to compliment the project."

Behind the Scenes:

All of the filming was done at local locations. Carlson and her staff filmed as early as 4:00 am at Target Corporation, Peru, Illinois to get the appropriate footage for the film. “There was a lot of effort and teamwork put into this project by the NCILC’s members and IVCC” Carlson stated. Carlson and her staff braved the frigid temperatures to film the outside scenes including the airport and river scenes.

Company Profile:

PDQ Courier, Inc. is an emergency freight company executing less than truckload deliveries intrastate and interstate on a regional basis. The company was established in 1995 and is the answer to lean manufacturing and just –in-time inventory challenges.

The business specializes in a 30 minute dispatch for 0 – 10,000 pound non-CDL cargo counter to counter service. Primary customers include manufacturers, industrial suppliers, and medical facilities.

PDQ is certified as a Hubzone, women-owned, and minority owned business. The staff currently consists of twenty-one persons.

Operations recently moved to its’ new 4300 square ft., permanent location at 4 Terminal Road, Peru, Illinois 61354.

Volunteer services include providing delivery of grocery items for the ShareFood Program for the community of Tonica. PDQ is also a member of the North Central Works, and North Central Illinois Logistics Council. The company recently filmed and produced an informational video on the transportation, warehousing, and distribution field for high school aged students and dislocated workers.

STORY PREP INFORMATION:

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Ms. Pam Furlan / Executive Director of BEST, Inc. and NCI Works Member / 815-223-7930/ pmfurlan@aol.com Excellent, informative source for NCI works project information

Ms. Kathy Glascock / IVCC Director of Career and Technical Programs / 815-224-2720 /kathy_glascock@ivcc.edu Informative and energetic college contact