

For Immediate Release

Morris County career fair to bring together employers and job seekers

Florham Park, NJ – May 2, 2016 – A career fair will be held May 20 at the College of St. Elizabeth, bringing together up to 40 local employers and unlimited job seekers. The fair will feature a morning of free training for job seekers to enhance their ability to find work and an afternoon of employers meeting with potential new hires.

The fair is being sponsored by the Morris County Chamber of Commerce and the Morris County Society for Human Resource Management, with assistance from Kokopella Career & Business Coaching.

"The business community is facing a talent shortage, both nationally and here in Morris County," said Paul Boudreau, president of the Morris County Chamber of Commerce. "While unemployment is low, that statistic is deceiving. Many people are underemployed or in positions for which they are overqualified. At the same time, businesses are telling me they are having difficulty finding qualified candidates for open positions."

Nationally, 32 percent of U.S. employers report difficulties filling job vacancies due to talent shortages, according to Manpower Group's 2015 Talent Shortage Survey. The jobs most in demand range from skilled workers and technicians to sales representatives and executives to accounting/finance staff and engineers.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics reports a continued shortage of qualified workers in certain STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) disciplines. Locally, North Jersey manufacturers are partnering to sponsor high school programs designed to create future employees for the increasingly computerized manufacturing industry.

Meanwhile, the nation's underemployment rate – unemployed workers looking for work and part-time workers seeking full-time employment – was 14.5 percent in March.

"This career fair will bring together Morris County employers looking for qualified workers and job seekers who can both take advantage of training and meet potential employers," said Lois Nagie, president of the Morris County Society of Human Resource Management.

The fair will be held at the Annunciation Center of St. Elizabeth College at 2 Convent Road, Morristown. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. for job seekers. Job search training will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will include a talent acquisition panel discussion and training in networking and interviewing. The career fair will begin at 1:00 p.m. Attendance is free and box lunches will be available for \$10.

Attendees are encouraged to bring plenty of business cards. Job seekers without business cards may design and make cards using the society's web site, www.shrm-morrisnj.org, scrolling down and clicking on the Career Fair icon.

Employers wanting to participate can reserve a table via the society's web site at www.shrm-morrisnj.org. Tables for businesses are \$250 with two representatives and \$50 for each additional representative. Tables for nonprofits are \$150 with two representatives and \$50 for each additional representative. Sponsorships also are available by contacting Dennis Bartley at sponsorship@shrm-morrisnj.org.

About the Morris County Chamber of Commerce

With more than 900 members, the Morris County Chamber of Commerce exists to support strong economic growth and promote a vibrant business community. Through opportunities to participate in committees, programs and events, the Chamber facilitates member connection with Morris County insiders. Members expand their customer base through diverse levels of networking; a voice in local and state government; promotional opportunities; community involvement; work force growth and development; support for diversity initiatives; identification of best practices; and facilitation of emergency preparedness and business continuity. Visit us at www.morrischamber.org.

About the Morris County Society of Human Resource Management

The Society for Human Resource Management - Morris County Chapter, Inc. (SHRM), an "affiliate" of the Global Society for Human Resource Management, is a 700+ member community of human resource professionals and management consultants in Northern New Jersey. Members of Morris County SHRM are responsible for long-range human resource planning, personnel recruitment, hiring, compensation and legal considerations in today's workplace. Morris County SHRM offers monthly educational and networking opportunities for members, businesses and our communities.

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