

Several Career Offices Relocate, Take on New Look

A pleasant, well laid-out environment plays a major role in how customers view a service business, as well as in how well employees do their jobs. Several years ago, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board decided to make significant changes to the facilities used for its local career offices. Since 1996, the Board has promoted the concept of local career offices having the layout and functionality of a public library, designed to be easily accessible, with large open space for customers to access resources and work with professional staff as they need. Many of the Board's facilities were inherited from previous programs and didn't fit the "library" model.

As the Board opened new offices and expanded or moved existing ones, it worked with the contractors operating those offices to open them up and make them better places for customers. The Pasadena office was the first to adopt the new look and is the flagship for design throughout the system. The open design accommodates large numbers of customers at any one time. A variety of colors and comfortable furniture create a warm and inviting atmosphere in the large resource area. Public access computers and telephones for job search activities dot the room, with both standing room and sitting stations available. Staff has space throughout the resource area to be closer to customers. The new offices also have private areas for staff at the back, classroom space and interviewing space for employers.

OFFICE UPDATES



Left: The WorkSource – Winnie office at 111 West Pine Street is once again up and running. The office was damaged by Hurricane Rita and staff had to work from a temporary location for a while.

Left: The WorkSource – Texas City moved to its new location at 3549 Palmer Highway last fall and will soon be holding an open house to welcome the community. The new office is much larger and more easily accessible than the former office.



Above: The WorkSource – Humble opened its new office at 9668 FM 1960, Bypass Road West late last year and recently held its open house. The office is another example of the new open design environment.



Left: The WorkSource – Southwest career office has finally moved into a new, permanent location at 12710 Bissonnet, Houston. One of the largest offices in The WorkSource system, the office helped a major portion of Katrina evacuees while in its temporary Beechnut location.

American Petroleum Institute Workforce Initiative

FACT: The American exploration and production industry is facing a critical shortage of manpower that will have a devastating effect on the local and national economy in the years to come if not addressed now. This shortage is due primarily to the large number of baby boomers who are at, or near, the age of retirement. Added to that loss is a workforce system

that is currently not producing enough trained petroleum engineers, geologists and geophysicists to fill these jobs, or the projected new ones in this growing industry.

In an effort to reverse this trend, the American Petroleum Institute has formed a workforce committee comprised of industry representatives. The WorkSource is also a member of that committee and is supporting

its efforts to form an ongoing employer-led effort that addresses the industry's immediate and long-term workforce needs.

For more information on The WorkSource energy industry initiatives, contact Will Sieber, energy industry liaison at will.sieber@theworksource.org or 832.681.2507.