

Help is available to students, the jobless

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Editor, the Record:

Change is hardly ever easy, especially when it is involuntary. This idea comes to mind with the current state of the economy and the increase in unemployed individuals. As the PA CareerLink administrator for Monroe County, every day I witness the effect this economic downturn is having on people in our communities, most of whom did everything right by working hard for themselves and their families.

Despite the increase in displaced workers, what keeps me optimistic about our region is that the qualities these people showed in their last career are the same qualities I see them using to find their next one. The people in this region could spend all their time being mad, but instead they spend their time figuring out what the next step will be.

Which brings me back to the idea of change.

I would like to assure northeastern Pennsylvania residents that they have access to many diverse programs that can assist them in their job search. For example, the new stimulus package includes training dollars for dislocated workers, including disadvantaged adults and youth. In addition, more than \$11 million has been invested through the Wall Street West initiative for programs ranging from the development of new and exciting curriculum in our institutions of higher education to programs geared toward upgrading the skills of our existing work force. Local universities, community colleges, and career and technical schools have quality programs to meet the growing needs of local employers such as Sanofi-Pasteur, Tobyhanna Army Depot and Pocono Medical Center.

Resources like these are available right now, and if an individual is able to reconsider his or her options, he or she will find more opportunities.

Change is hardly ever easy, when it is involuntary, but that doesn't mean it has to have a bad result.

JOHN A. CASELLA

CareerLink Administrator,

Monroe County

Tannersville