

The Rocky Mountain Conference on Aging Aging in the Workplace

The Senior Community Services Program

Presenter Name: Audrey Krebs

Presentation Date and Time: 10/24/07, 2:00-3:00pm

The Senior Community Services Employment Program, (SCSEP), helps older adults who have a limited income locate employment through a variety of resources. SCSEP provides older adults with on-the-job training, career advising and job search workshops. This organization creates opportunity for many older adults to enter and succeed in the competitive job market.

After SCSEP enrollment, older adults' skills, talents and interests are discussed and are coordinated to a host agency. A host agency is either a government or non-profit agency. Not only do SCSEP participants get training and employment, but also receive a number of benefits which includes continued Social Security benefits, annual physicals, job referrals, computer training, resume writing and building, and training in interview skills.

To qualify for this program, one must be 55 years old or older, meet income requirements, and be a resident of Colorado. The caring staff of SCSEP strives for participants to gain confidence through this program. It is a great resource to sharpen old skills and learn new ones to experience personal and professional success.

This presentation also reviewed how employers can benefit from The Senior Community Services Employment Program. By participating in the On The Job Experience program, (OJE), employers may be given cash reimbursements in exchange for employing a participant from SCSEP. Krebs discussed some great reasons for companies to consider the program. Some of those reasons are that applicants are pre-screened which saves the employer time and money, the employer is able to interview and select the desired participant for employment, and the worker is trained on the company's equipment. Through OJE, employers gain dependable, experienced, devoted workers.

Krebs played a powerful informational video describing the journey of a man who experienced personal and professional success with the help of SCSEP. The six minute video walked the audience through his incredible transformation which let them celebrate the man's success second hand. Krebs also discussed the article, "Re-engaging Aging Boomer Workers" to further capitalize on the need for SCSEP and the purpose the organization serves. This article can be found on

http://blogs.rockymountainnews.com/denver/speakout/2007/10/reengaging_aging_boome.

Submitted by: Rachel Rota, Colorado State University, October 24, 2007