

Northwest Georgia recently welcomed its highly anticipated, state-of-the-art and ADA accessible mobile

It's Here!

computer lab funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

(WIOA). The lab will be used as a mobile career center that will deliver a variety of job skills and development services to the Northwest Georgia region, while increasing awareness of the services provided by Region 1 Northwest Georgia Workforce Development Board and its partner agencies. More services will be provided to a greater number of individuals and employers, thereby enabling individuals to achieve their highest potential; ensuring employers have the skilled workers they need to compete effectively in the global economy; and capitalizing on the untapped potential of underemployed and discouraged workers, youth and other job seekers with special needs.

Even with seven one-stop career centers serving the fifteen-county region, most cities are more than twenty miles away, and travel to the centers can place an undue hardship on those with limited incomes and access to transportation. In addition, use of the mobile career center will increase the presence of the WIOA program, provide access to those with disabilities that are not able to travel to the career centers, and increase access to training opportunities through the availability of classroom training. Distance from an education provider can be a barrier to those with limited incomes or who are receiving unemployment insurance benefits.



Welcoming the mobile lab are, from left, Harry Spieker from Farber Specialty Vehicles, and NWGRC staff: Chase and Shane Holden, IT; Gwen Dellinger, WIOA Director, and Lloyd Frasier, NWGRC Executive Director.



As new endeavors are identified to meet WIOA requirements (such as enhancing digital literacy skills and financial literacy) and closer relationships are developed between partners, the list of services and target groups will expand. For the immediate future, potential uses are anticipated for:

- Employer recruitment, on-site contract finalization
- Individual training - GEDs, on-line classroom training
- Work-based learning - OJT, apprenticeships, internships
- Skills assessments
- On-site employment applications, résumés
- Detention and juvenile justice centers - GEDs, on-line training
- Youth services
- Staff and partner training (LMI, Data Analysis, Webinars, etc.)
- Layoff Aversion/Incumbent Worker Training
- Rapid Response (layoffs and closings)
- Special projects
- Career Advise ment, Career Pathway Exposure
- Job/Career Fairs
- Core Services/Partner Referrals
- Military/National Guard - Re-entry



Northwest Georgia Workforce Board members and agency partners receive a tour of the mobile lab. Pictured, from left, Chris Upchurch, Dalton One-Stop Career Center /DOL Manager; Kim Earley, OJT Representative from the Blue Ridge One-Stop Career Center /DOL; Lisa Adkisson, GDOL Region 1 Coordinator; Vicki Wade, Supervisor and Lori Royal, OJT Representative, both from the Cartersville One-Stop Career Center /DOL; and Bruce Bowman from Fox Systems, Northwest Georgia Workforce Board Chairman.

To schedule or request use of the mobile lab, contact Terri Morgan at (706) 295-6485 or tmorgan@nwgrc.org. At the current time it will be utilized on a first come, first served basis. With exceptions possible for partner agencies' urgency of purpose to be determined by WIOA staff. A fee for service may be imposed depending on user and purpose.