

CAREER CORNER



2Work
Lovetowork.org

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LovetoWork.org, LLC Launches on Labor Day

LovetoWork.org was born on Labor Day 2006. LovetoWork.org, LLC is a new workforce consulting business designed to assist businesses and job seekers improve company and individual performance. The Charleston based company will assist workers, students, and companies in becoming more productive and in finding avocations that they enjoy doing.

Gary Crossley, retired SC Employment Security Commission employee, is the owner of LovetoWork.org. Most recently for the past six years, Crossley served as the Area Director of the Charleston Workforce Center, with a focus on fostering collaborative partnerships to help address area labor market needs. Crossley brings over 30 years of experience in workforce

Finding a Career Right for You

“Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work.” Aristotle said this many years ago and it is surely a statement that has stood the test of time.

People who enjoy their work are not only happier in their job environment, but also more productive with higher quality production as a result of their efforts. The secret is finding out how and why they end up in their occupation.

Growing up, my parents were on exact opposites

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development, economic analysis, and labor market information.

The new corporation will rely on knowledge of labor market policy and programs designed to aid performance of employment and training programs through resources, career preparation, and employment trends. The new consulting company will develop skill inventories, productivity motivational tools, web site (www.lovetowork.org will be up in late September 2006), and/or employee surveys for improving job satisfaction and performance.

on the spectrum – my dad hated his job while my mother wanted to stay until she got the job done and the job done perfectly. I have been trying to analyze their differences over the years and determine how they each got into their situations. In a nutshell, my father ended up in his chosen career (HVAC mechanic in civil service) by assignment, while my mom chose her destiny based upon a task/skill she enjoyed doing (typing and administrative office work).

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Occupational Career Clusters

South Carolina passed the Education and Economic Development Act in 2005. This legislation will significantly alter the state's education system and hopefully lead to a workforce whose skills are more in synch with economic development in the state. Schools will have to revamp their curriculums and offerings to be centered in sixteen career clusters (see below).

Here are some links for more information about this initiative:

SC Department of Education:

<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/cate/jobsincareerclusters/SCJobsinCareerClusters.html>

Other Sites: www.careerclusters.org,
www.carolinacareers.org, www.scasa.org,
www.scchamber.net, and www.scois.net



Sixteen Career Clusters:

- (1) agriculture, food, and natural resources;
 - (2) architecture and construction;
 - (3) arts, audio-video technology, and communications;
 - (4) business, management, and administration;
 - (5) education and training;
 - (6) finance;
 - (7) health science;
 - (8) hospitality and tourism;
 - (9) human services;
 - (10) information technology;
 - (11) law, public safety, and security;
 - (12) manufacturing;
 - (13) government and public administration;
 - (14) marketing, sales, and service;
 - (15) science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;
- and

Career Exam – Aircraft Mechanic

Aircraft Mechanics diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul aircraft engines and assemblies, such as hydraulic and pneumatic systems. Include helicopter and aircraft engine specialists.

Tasks: Assembles and install electrical, plumbing, mechanical, hydraulic, and structural components and accessories, using hand tools and power tools.

Tools/Technology: Integrated maintenance information systems such as aircraft maintenance management systems; integrated maintenance and inventory systems; portable maintenance access terminals; & S.M.A.R.T aircraft maintenance tracking – Various computer software linked to equipment.

Most Common Educational/Training Level: Postsecondary vocational award

Related Instructional Programs: Agricultural Mechanics and Equipment/Machine Technology; Aircraft Power Plant Technology/Technician; & Airframe Mechanics and Aircraft Maintenance Technology/Technician

Resources: For general information about aircraft and avionics equipment mechanics and service technicians, contact: the Professional Aviation Maintenance Association, 717 Princess St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Internet: <http://www.pama.org>

Information about jobs with a particular airline can be obtained by writing to the personnel manager of the company or checking there web sites (Boeing, Lockheed, Vought, Global Aeronautica, etc.).

Wages: U.S. = \$45,910; S.C. = \$37,900; & Charleston = \$38,600



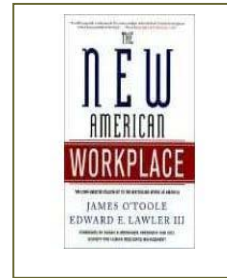
The New American Workplace

Book Review

The New American Workplace is a new book by James O'Toole and Edward E. Lawler III (published by Palgrave Macmillan, 260pp, 2006) which focuses on changes that have swept through U.S. companies in the past several decades. The book is a follow-up of sorts to a panel chaired by Mr. O'Toole 33 years ago which produced a study titled *Work in America*, examining working conditions and the health & mental impact of narrow, repetitive jobs.

Mr. O'Toole is now a professor at the University of Southern California's Center for Effective Organizations (where Mr. Lawler is the Center's founder and director). The book lays out a persuasive case for American companies to adopt a high-wage, high worker involvement approach to competition, both internal and from global markets.

The authors have provided a good documentation of major trends in the American work place, ranging from off-shoring/outsourcing to part-time and temporary workers. They have already planned for a companion volume titled, *America at Work*, which will



"Issues of personal choice are now front-and-center...."

be a collection of 16 studies commissioned from the most prominent thinkers on today's work environments/dynamics.

Of interest to Career Corner readers is the chapter in which the authors focus on the heavy burden that today's job entrants have – from deciding which fields to study to where to work and from whether to join a union to how to plan for retirement via pension planning. They are critical of the first study which they said paid too little attention to issues of personal responsibility. O'Toole and Lawler write, "issues of personal choice are now front-and-center whenever questions about employment policy are raised." Read this book if you are facing a critical decision on which direction you should take!

Charleston County Library PC Training

Spotlight On

Did you know that the Charleston County Library system offers free computer training classes? There is no charge. While the majority of the classes are offered at their main library at 68 Calhoun Street in downtown Charleston, many of the branch locations also offer some computer classes.

Some of the courses include beginning basics, Microsoft Office (Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, & Word), Email Essentials, HTML/Web Site Development, and others. The courses range in

length.

You can access the list of monthly offerings by locations at the following web site – www.ccpl.org, click on the "Services" tab on the top bar, then click on the "Computers" item in the left hand column, and then select the "Computer Classes" listing in the middle. Registration and more info can be obtained by calling 843/559-1945 and ask for the Reference Department.

"Finding a Career" from page 1

How can you find that dream job and career where you will be like my mother and enjoy going to work and doing the best possible? I think you can follow the following three steps.

One – Take an Inventory Assessment. Think about what you enjoy doing – nature, sports, reading, theater, etc. Explore careers associated with these activities. Consult the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. Check out web sites like the O*Net, www.onetcenter.org and Career InfoNet, www.acinet.org. Take an assessment test – these are available through schools, Workforce Centers, or One Stop Career Centers.

Two – Map Out a Course, Using Resources. Evaluate the info from step One. Which careers appear best suited to you? Check out career information sites to get a feel for job conditions, forecasts, skills needed, education needs, etc. (see www.workforceinfo.org).

Three – Just Do It. Put your plan into action by getting equipped to enter the career. Maybe you will need to find a mentor in the chosen field or a professional organization to network. Perhaps you need to acquire some enhanced skills, be it computer, management, or license/certification.

To sum it up, don't rely on someone else choosing your career – take your own action to discover your avocation of choice.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION



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Career Corner is published 12 times a year, Individual issues are \$2.00 and annual subscriptions are available for \$15.00 per year. Customized and volume discounts for organizations are available by calling Gary Crossley at 843/452-4121. Invoices are available, please send your requests (with name, phone #, snail mail, and email address) to one of the addresses (email or snail mail) shown below.

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helping make the workforce more
productive