

Online with AJLA-TS



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Follow Us! AJLA Joins Facebook and Twitter

AJLA has expanded its communication and outreach methods to include the social media outlets Facebook and Twitter. Check out these Frequently Asked Questions and Answers, then connect with us and join the conversation.

How does AJLA intend to use Facebook and Twitter?

Social media will be used to increase AJLA's visibility, and to connect more with Steering Committee members and partner organizations. Some examples of what may be posted/tweeted are: information about upcoming meetings and events, event photos, staff updates, links to articles and resources of general interest to the workforce development community, and informal polls and surveys.

Will I still receive information by email?

Yes. AJLA is still maintaining its other communication methods: email, the AJLA website (www.ajla.net), the [AJLA Steering Committee](#) page on www.naswa.org, and the quarterly newsletter. Formal Steering Committee votes will still be carried out at Steering Committee meetings or, when necessary, via email.

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AZJobConnection Goes Live

On February 21st, America's JobLink (AJL) went live in the state of Arizona as AZJobConnection.gov. Mark Darmer, Deputy Assistant Director, Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services at the Arizona Department of Economic Security and one of the project's sponsors, delivered sincere thanks and congratulations to AJLA-TS writing, "The willingness of the team in Kansas to meet and exceed our expectations on the application have been excellent. You have a great team in your organization, and their dedication to

ensuring the application performs as expected (or better!) is clearly evident. [...] [This is] one of the best implementations that we have been involved with."

Arizona is the 8th AJLA member state to implement AJL as its Workforce Case Management and Reporting System. To visit the AZJobConnection website, click [here](#).

How do I connect with AJLA on Facebook and Twitter?

Facebook

Go to <http://www.facebook.com/AJL.Alliance>. Log into your Facebook account, or create an account if you don't have one. Once you're logged in, click the **Like** button to start receiving AJLA updates in your Facebook News Feed.

Twitter

Go to https://twitter.com/#!/ajl_alliance. Log into your Twitter account or create an account. Once you're logged in, click the **Follow** button to start receiving AJLA tweets.

Does "Liking" the AJLA page allow AJLA page admins and other fans to view my personal Facebook profile?

No. Liking a page is not the same as accepting a friend request. Unless material on your Facebook timeline is set to Public, AJLA page admins and other AJLA fans



will not be able to view it. However, they will be able to see your name and profile picture if you post or comment on the AJLA wall.

Does following AJLA on Twitter mean my tweets will appear on the AJLA timeline?

No. AJLA has to follow you in order to receive your tweets. If your tweets are protected through your account settings, AJLA cannot follow you without your approval.

How can I join the conversation?

First, keep in mind that anyone can visit the AJLA pages and view what's posted there, including AJLA's competitors. If you have any doubt whether the information is suitable for public consumption, please don't post it. Read the AJLA Social Media Guidelines below, and be sure you are familiar with your own organization's social media policy. Then share your perspective by commenting on AJLA posts/tweets. Respond to questions and polls. Share pictures you took at AJLA meetings or confer-

AJLA SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

We welcome all viewpoints, but reserve the right to remove inappropriate comments. Examples include comments that contain foul language or privileged information, attack a single person or group, or promote a product or service. Disagreements and constructive feedback are fine, but please be respectful. If a comment is removed and contact information is available, we will notify the comment author personally. We reserve the right to ban repeat offenders.

We encourage the sharing of content such as photos from AJLA events, and links to credible sources of information that are related to wall posts or of general interest to the workforce development community. We assume that anyone sharing content has the right to do so. Please obtain the permission of the photographed individuals before posting a photo. Shared articles, blog posts, press releases, etc. are for the exchange of information only and do not necessarily reflect the views of AJLA or its individual members.



ences. Share articles or other information you think may be of interest to members and fans. We look forward to hearing from you!

Who are the AJLA Facebook and Twitter account admins?

Brooke Patterson, Communications Manager, and Melanie Henry, Customer Support Supervisor, AJLA-TS.

What's New at AJLA-TS?

Product Updates

AJL

AJLA-TS is working with a team at Northwest Kansas Technical College on projects related to social media and mobile applications.

The release of AJL 12.2 is scheduled for late May 2012. While this release was initially targeted for April 2012, the scope of federally mandated changes to support modifications to TAA and RES/REA EUC required a reevaluation of the proposed time line. The release is slated to include 99 tickets, 47 of which are system enhancements. Among them are an integrated single sign-on (SSO) solution for integrating AJL with other third party applications, significant updates to the FiscalLink allocation management process, reports for

tracking staff-assisted services provided to WIA participants, the ability to collect participant and family income and determine low income status, and the final updates for full support of international addresses. A complete list of the tickets to be included in the release is available in Redmine.

Initial planning of the AJL 12.3 release, now targeted for mid November 2012, has begun.

DART

During the last quarter, AJLA-TS reporting staff have been very busy updating DART, based on changes to the ETA 406 Handbook affecting the ETA 9002 and VETS 200 reporting requirements, and the 2011 amendments to the TAA law/regulations.

ReportLink

The conversion of ReportLink into a standalone application utilizing SQL Express continues. While ReportLink will still be available as a web based application using SQL Server 2008, the conversion to SQL Express will allow states to minimize their costs for ReportLink implementation. Progress was slowed by numerous recent changes in federal reporting requirements for TAA and Employment Service. The new version should be available for testing

around October, with official release by the end of the calendar year.

Hosting Services Update

Work is nearing completion on the AJLA-TS disaster recovery site. All backup servers are configured and awaiting installation. The backup data storage device is in place, and data replication between the main data center and the device is enabled. At the AJLA-TS data center, upgrades to the existing production servers and data storage unit are in progress.

System uptime for hosted states during the first calendar quarter was 99.8%. AJLA-TS has the data center capacity to host additional states.



Andrew Miller

Due to a change in roles and responsibilities at IDES, Andrew Miller resigned as Chair of the AJLA Steering Committee in March. Jon Eller will serve as Interim Chair until a new Executive Committee is voted in at the Annual Conference. Andy: Your leadership was appreciated by both the committee members and AJLA-TS staff. We wish you the best in your new assignment!

The USDOL's Women's Bureau: Helping Women Take Advantage of Golden Opportunities in the Green Economy

If you're a workforce development professional, the topic of green jobs has likely been on your radar for several years. What you may not have realized is that most of these new jobs are in industries traditionally dominated by men; for example, construction, manufacturing, and renewable energy. In 2009, the U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau hosted a series of over 30 "Women and Green Jobs" roundtables across the nation, drawing more than 1,200 participants. Among the topics discussed was how to increase women's ac-

cess to high-growth sectors of the economy. Through the dialog, a general lack of awareness about opportunities emerged as a significant barrier to women's employment in nontraditional green fields.

In an effort to remedy this problem, the Women's Bureau released the free online publication ["Why Green is Your Color: A Woman's Guide to a Sustainable Career"](#) on February 15th, 2012. This upbeat yet down-to-earth guide provides a wealth of infor-

mation and resources to help women explore their interests and aptitudes, then prepare for, find, and keep lucrative and fulfilling jobs.

The guide can also help workforce development professionals, training providers, educators, career counselors, and women's advocacy organizations better serve the women with which they work. Said Sara Manzano-Díaz, director of the Women's Bureau, "Many occupations in the clean energy economy remain virtually untapped by women. This guide is an invaluable resource that workforce professionals can use to help women transition into higher paying jobs that serve as a pathway into



Photo credit: speculator, stckexchng.com

the middle class. It is also a tool to help fight job segregation."¹

Higher paying jobs for women is a Women's Bureau priority issue and key to Labor Secretary Hilda Solis's vision of "good jobs for everyone." Share the "Woman's Guide to a Sustainable Career" with a woman (or girl) you know today. For more information, visit the Women's Bureau at <http://www.dol.gov/wb/welcome.html>.

¹United States Department of Labor. (2012). US Department of Labor's Women's Bureau releases guide to help women prepare for, find and succeed in 'green' jobs. [Press Release]. Retrieved from <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/wb/WB20120201.htm>.





Shoppers stroll down Michigan Avenue, a.k.a., "The Magnificent Mile." © City of Chicago / GRC

2012 Annual Conference Registration Now Open

Register now for the 2012 Annual Conference to be held on Chicago's Magnificent Mile, July 24–27. The conference is targeted toward anyone with an interest in workforce and economic development: administrators, employment services and one-stop center staff, information specialists, workforce professionals, veteran representatives, and more. This year's agenda features presentations on a variety of timely topics by leaders from USDOL/ETA Region 5, such as Byron Zuidema, Regional Administrator; John Scott, Manager, Unemployment Insurance Division; and Gerardo Lara, Manager, Division of Workforce Investment. Don't miss this affordable opportunity to connect with other professionals in the field, stay in touch with the latest topics and trends in workforce development, and learn more about AJLA products and services.

Email registration invitations have been sent. To register, click the link in your email invitation. If you did not receive an invitation, or know someone who would like one, contact Brooke Patterson at bpatterson@ajla.net. A draft conference agenda, hotel reservation information, and other details will be available soon on www.ajla.net.

AJLA at the Summit

AJLA exhibited at the 11th Annual Kansas Workforce Summit, "Taking Education, Economic Development and Employment to the Next Level: Managing Change Through Creativity," January 18–19, 2012, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka, Kansas. The Summit provides an annual forum for all stakeholders to address new realities facing workforce and economic development in Kansas and beyond.

The Summit featured elected officials such as Kansas Governor Sam Brownback, and Kansas state legislators Laura Kelly, Mike O'Neal, Steve Morris, and Ann Mah, as well as numerous private sector subject matter experts. It had an attendance of approximately 300, including 18 exhibitors representing non-profit and educational institutions, industry, information technology, and staffing organizations.

"Online with AJLA-TS" is a publication of America's Job Link Alliance–Technical Support, a division of the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Governor: Sam Brownback

Secretary: Pat George

Deputy Secretary of Workforce Services: Caleb Asher

Send comments or questions to:
America's Job Link Alliance–Technical Support
1430 SW Topeka Boulevard
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1816
Email: ajladesk@ajla.net
Phone: (785) 296-0295 or (800) 255-2458