

Lincoln Trail Workforce Board awarded grant for dislocated workers

Includes
workers affected
by BlueOval
SK layoffs

SUBMITTED

The Lincoln Trail Workforce Development Board (LTWDB) announced that it has been awarded a three-year, National Dislocated Worker Grant to serve nearly 300 workers dislocated by recent layoffs in the region. These include workers impacted by layoffs at facilities including the BlueOval SK Battery Park in Glendale, Akebono in Elizabethtown, Kentucky Cooperage in Lebanon and Moveret in Elizabethtown. These grant funds will primarily be utilized for retraining, on-the-job-training initiatives and support services.

The grant is designed to help dislocated and underemployed workers return to unsubsidized employment while promoting long-term economic stability for participants and their families. The program prioritizes career opportunities that offer competitive wages, benefits, advancement potential and stable working conditions.

Through the Kentucky Career Center-Lincoln Trail system, LTWDB and its workforce services provider, Career TEAM,

will deliver individualized employment and training services tailored to each participant's needs. Following a comprehensive assessment of skills, experience, career goals and employment barriers, participants will work with Career Advisors to develop personalized employment plans focused on rapid reemployment and career success.

Available services may include career coaching, resume and interview assistance, job search support, labor market information and direct connections to employers. Participants may also access training opportunities in high-demand industries such as advanced manufacturing, transportation and logistics, healthcare, business/IT and skilled trades, as well as on-the-job training and occupational skills training programs.

To help eliminate barriers to employment, supportive services may be provided, including work clothing, tools, certifications and other job-related needs.

LTWDB, Career TEAM and regional partners will work closely with local employers to identify hiring needs, align training with workforce demand and connect participants directly to available job opportunities through hiring

events, job matching and other recruitment activities.

"This grant provides an important opportunity to help workers affected by recent layoffs reconnect with employment opportunities and build long-term career stability," said Jackie Masterson, Workforce Services Director for the Lincoln Trail Area Development District. "By aligning training and employment services with the needs of regional employers, we can support job seekers in securing quality careers while strengthening the workforce across the Lincoln Trail region."

Those interested in learning about their eligibility can visit ltcareercenter.org/dislocated-workers. Any and all questions may be directed to Kristin Reed, Executive Director for Career TEAM in the Lincoln Trail region, at kristinreed@careerteam.com.

Lawmakers name Comstock new LRC Director

SUBMITTED

Katie C. Comstock, an accomplished attorney with nearly two decades of experience in Kentucky government, was appointed Wednesday as the next Director for the Legislative Research Commission (LRC).

Comstock has served as LRC's Deputy Director for Committee and Staff Coordination since 2024, spearheading committee operations and overseeing more than 80 nonpartisan staff and bill drafters. She first joined the organization in 2005 as a committee analyst and later worked as a budget reviser, fiscal analyst, and Judiciary Committee Staff Administrator.

During her tenure in state government, Comstock has also served as the Director of the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, overseeing the administrative arm of Kentucky's unified court system and sup-

porting the activities of nearly 3,300 employees and more than 400 elected officials.

"I was fortunate to start my career at LRC, and I consider it my professional home," Comstock said. "We have incredible talent here, and a strong culture of public service throughout the organization. I look forward to building on that tradition."

LRC serves as the administrative and research arm of the Kentucky General Assembly. It's governing committee — comprised of majority and minority leaders from both the Senate and House of Representatives — approved the appointment at a regular meeting Wednesday.

Comstock will succeed current Director Jay D. Hartz, who announced his retirement last year. Her appointment takes effect

Aug. 1, and Hartz will remain with LRC through the end of July.

"Ms. Comstock brings exceptional expertise, steady leadership, and a deep commitment to serving the people of Kentucky," said House Speaker David W. Osborne. "Her experience and her willingness to engage thoughtfully with legislators and citizens alike make her uniquely prepared to guide the Legislative Research Commission. I am confident she will empower an already outstanding staff and help ensure that the law-making branch of our state government remains strong, responsive, and firmly focused on the needs of Kentuckians."

Senate President Robert Stivers said Comstock's experience and stewardship made her an obvious choice for the job.

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