

Financial services jobs group gets \$150,000 state grant

Friday, December 02, 2005

By Patricia Sabatini, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The state awarded \$150,000 yesterday to the Financial Services Workforce Initiative in Pittsburgh, a public-private partnership that works to bolster employment in the financial services sector.

The grant, which will be supplemented with \$118,000 in private and foundation money, will be used to expand the program outside of Allegheny County into surrounding counties.

The work force initiative, which was formed a little more than two years ago, coordinates an internship program with banks and other financial services firms for high school and college students. It also operates a free training program for tellers and customer service representatives in the financial services and health care insurance arenas.

Some of the members of the initiative include Duquesne University, Highmark Inc., Mellon Financial, National City Bank and Citizens Bank.

The state grant was awarded at a news conference at Duquesne University's Rockwell Hall. Officials also were on hand to promote the state's 2005-06 Pennsylvania Career Guide, which lists education requirements, salaries and expected demand for 180 occupations in Pennsylvania.

The guide, which also includes sections on financial aid, resume building and the job hunt, is available online at www.state.pa.us, keyword: career guide.

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