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New database to link job seekers to positions

Monroe Community College
is set to launch initiative
for workforce development

By NATE DOUGHERTY

Monroe Community College is set to unveil a workforce development database next week to help students and displaced workers connect with high-demand jobs locally.

The computer database, known as Career Coach, is intended to guide career choices by offering information on salaries, demographics, growth potential and the necessary education for a range of jobs. For MCC, the free database represents the future of workforce development, with constant collection of data to keep it up to date.

Users will be able to type a specific major or general field of employment into the database and see related occupations, MCC officials said. The database can show results within a 100-mile radius of Rochester, using four pieces of labor market data—job description, level of education needed, wage curve and total employment projections for the next 10 years.

To obtain the labor market information, the database takes “a real-time Web scrape” of all job postings, said Todd Oldham, MCC vice president for the Division of Economic Development and Innovative Workforce Services. So far a handful of colleges nationwide have begun using this labor market information, most notably Miami Dade College, Oldham said.

“Labor market information is getting more and more efficient, and because of the economy and the number of programs

being built to help close the skill gap, there are more and more companies working in this area,” he said. “The company we partner with is one of the leaders, especially the real-time information that users can see.”

Oldham expects more colleges to begin using such an approach, and he said complex databases such as Career Coach soon will become standard for workforce development.

The database is an important way to promote middle-skill jobs, those that require more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year degree, Oldham said. A report last year from the National Skills Coalition found that middle-skill positions account for half of all jobs in New York. As the economy recovers, that share is expected to grow.

“This is a way for us to get public awareness of these occupations that are in demand,” Oldham said. “This will not only help students but also dislocated workers or youth who have gotten off the education track and are trying to get back.”

Jobs in the database will direct users to the corresponding academic program at MCC and give information about what they will need for a position in the field. This database also will benefit employers, who will be able to connect more efficiently with a pipeline of potential workers, Oldham said.

The college plans to launch the database publicly next week, with two community workshops to demonstrate its use. The first is to take place Monday at the Brighton campus, with another workshop the following day at the Damon City Campus. Both run from noon to 1 p.m. and feature a series of short demonstrations with time for members of the public to try the database at stations set up with laptop computers.

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Camera supplier files to get merchandise back from Kodak

By WILL ASTOR

An Eastman Kodak Co. digital-camera supplier is trying to reclaim \$3.4 million worth of merchandise it shipped to Kodak in December and January.

Taiwan-based Altek Corp. filed papers Feb. 3 in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Manhattan, seeking an order compelling Kodak to let Altek reclaim some three dozen orders. The value of goods shipped ranged from \$13.52 to \$1.3 million.

Altek attorney Brian Lee of PivotPoint Law P.C. in Redwood, Calif., declined to comment, stating in an email that his firm lacked Altek's permission to speak.

A joint venture between Taiwan's large-

with the Altek motion, Altek general counsel Juliette Chan cites the U.S. Uniform Commercial Code and a section of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code as allowing suppliers to reclaim goods shipped during a 45-day window prior to a debtor's bankruptcy filing.

Kodak asked for Chapter 11 protection from creditors on Jan. 19. Chan's letter cites shipments invoiced from Dec. 5 to Jan. 18. The Taiwanese camera maker's bid to take back merchandise it shipped to Kodak comes despite Kodak's assurances that offshore suppliers would not be affected by its U.S. bankruptcy filing.

In a first-day motion that was quickly approved by the Bankruptcy Court, Kodak asked for permission to pay its for-



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