Approved for 12.0 West Virginia CLE Credits!

The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce 2019 Human Resources Conference has been approved for **12.0 CLE credits**, including **3.6 credits for the Elimination of Bias** and **7.2 credits for Office Management**! Click here to register now for the **not-to-be-missed HR conference of the year in West Virginia**! SHRM and HRCI Credits; and CLE Credits for OH, PA, and KY are pending!

The 2019 HR Conference will be kick off with a symposium on diversity and inclusion on **Tuesday April 9** at the Charleston Marriott Town Center. Dr. Steve Robbins, a nationally-renowned speaker on these issues, will present on the topic of "Unintentional Tolerance," and lead into a series of discussions in the afternoon on subjects such as Women & Leadership:
The Conference will continue on Wednesday, April 10, and will feature multiple engaging subjects such as:

- Conducting Pay Equity Audits
- Leading Successful HR Transformations
- Marijuana in the Workplace: "A Hazy Issue for Employers"
- Top Priorities for an HR Department of One
- What if You Don't "Like" an Employee's Social Media Content
- Best Practices for Employee Offboarding
- Building Your Talent Pipeline
- Performance Improvements and Corrective Action
- Right-to-Work in West Virginia: What's Next?

To view the full agenda for the 2019 HR Conference, please click here.

The recipients of the West Virginia Chamber's Five-Diamond Employer Award will also be recognized at the 2019 HR Conference. If you would like to submit an application nominating your employer for a Five-Diamond Employer Award, please click here and return the application by April 1.

We hope to see you April 9-10 for the West Virginia Chamber 2019 Human Resources Conference!

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Amanda Pasdon at apasdon@wvchamber.com, (304) 989-0664.

Register Now!

February Employment Numbers Show Big Gains in WV
West Virginia Chamber of Commerce
- The latest report from Workforce WV shows that February 2019 was a big month for employment in West Virginia. Compared to February 2018, West Virginia added 17,500 jobs to Total Nonfarm Payroll Employment, and 18,800 jobs to Private Sector employment. Below are some of the highlights from the latest report:

- Total Nonfarm Payroll Employment is reported at 736,800 jobs - a net gain of 17,500 jobs
- Private Sector Employment is 585,600 - net gain of 18,800
- Mining & Logging is at 23,200 - a gain of 1,100
- Manufacturing is at 48,300 - a gain of 1,600
- Construction is at 50,500 - a gain of 16,000
- Educational & Health Services is at 129,000 - a gain of 1,000

Construction was one of the primary drivers of the great numbers in this report, with a net gain of 16,000 jobs. It should also be noted that manufacturing saw a major gain with 1,600. This is a labor sector that has seen a steady decline over the years, but 2018 saw a leveling off with some very modest gains. The jump for manufacturing in this month's report is especially good news, as these tend to be high-wage jobs for employees with technical skills.

To view the latest jobs report from Workforce WV, click here.

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West Virginia export growth exceeds national average

WV News - Whether it's coal, aerospace parts or other products, the Mountain State is experiencing an increase in exports to other states and around the world, even outpacing the national average. According to a report from the West Virginia Department of Commerce, exports increased for the second year in a row in 2018, reaching $8.1 billion. West Virginia Chamber of Commerce President Steve Roberts said these findings and Toyota's
announcement stand as proof the state is going in the right direction in terms of creating a business-friendly environment. "I think it's accurate and safe to say there's some really good things happening in our economy," he said. "We know chemical manufacturing is a major export product, and we really are seeing excellent signs of economic recovery. For three quarters in 2018, we were ranked 12th and 13th nationally in jobs creation. We have come up to eighth place in national GDP growth."  

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**West Virginia News**

Justice predicts "avalanche" of work soon on secondary roads

**WV MetroNews** - Gov. Jim Justice predicted an "avalanche of work" would begin soon on secondary roads across the state during an appearance Wednesday on MetroNews "Talkline." "And absolutely there won't be a county more important than another county," Justice said. "It will happen in all 55 counties." Justice's comments came less than 24 hours after he instructed DOH district engineers and county maintenance supervisors to make a list of roads in their counties, prioritize the work needed and suggest how it can be done.  

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**WV Ed Dept. invited students, families to take surveys, sets Wood forum**

**Charleston Gazette-Mail** - The West Virginia Department of Education is inviting students, families and others to take online surveys, and it's scheduled another public forum, according to a Tuesday news release. "Findings from the survey will be included in a summary report for Governor Jim Justice and members of the West Virginia Legislature," the release said. "This report will summarize the statewide forums and highlight research-based strategies to improve student achievement."  

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**Former anti-poverty group leader charged with embezzlement**

**WV MetroNews** - A former official with an anti-poverty group faces charges of embezzlement after taking more than $60,000 from the organization. Chris Kimes, 38, of Charleston, is accused of taking the funds from West Virginia Healthy Kids and Families Coalition between July 2016 and December 2018. Kimes served as director of political affairs. According to
Charleston police, Kimes linked the organization's credit card to a PayPal account controlled by his partner. Kimes made 83 unauthorized charges totaling $62,457.66. Continue...

Capito, McKinley again at top of bipartisan rankings

WV MetroNews - U.S. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., and Rep. David McKinley, R-W.Va., rank among the top lawmakers on bipartisanship according to a report released Tuesday. The Lugar Center and the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University placed Capito third and McKinley 11th on their Bipartisan Index for the 115th Congress, which met between January 2017 and January 2019. According to the Lugar Center, named after former Indiana Sen. Richard Lugar, the rankings are based on the frequency a lawmaker co-sponsors legislation introduced by someone of the opposing party and how often their own bills attract sponsorship from the other side of the aisle. Continue...

Morrisey sues Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Bransfield; Diocese responds

WV MetroNews - The Diocese of Wheeling Charleston is the target of civil litigation by the office of Attorney General Patrick Morrisey. The suit blames the Diocese and its Bishops for allowing those who had a record of child sexual abuse to continue to hold positions of power within the church, especially in areas with access to children. "The suit alleges the Diocese and their Bishops knowingly employed pedophiles and failed to conduct adequate background checks for those working at school and camps," Morrisey said. Continue...

Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Rejects Claims in West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey's Lawsuit Over Sex Abuse Scandal

The Intelligencer - The Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston said it "strongly and unconditionally rejects" West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey's assertion that the diocese is not wholly committed to the protection of children. On Tuesday, Morrisey filed a civil lawsuit against the diocese and its retired bishop, the Most Rev. Michael J. Bransfield, for allegedly failing to protect children from sexual abusers. Diocesan spokesman Tim Bishop released a statement from the diocese late Tuesday. Continue...
New PEIA Rainy Day Fund could help keep costs down for state workers into FY 2022

WV MetroNews - The recently created PEIA Rainy Day Fund that will have $105 million from the state's general revenue fund next fiscal year could cover increasing costs for health insurance for state workers all of the way into the 2022 fiscal year.  Continue...

National News

How Dow Chemical Got Woke

Bloomberg Businessweek - On April 1, Dow Chemical will be spun off from DowDuPont Inc. to form an independent company. The move will be big for the corporate financiers behind it, and for the manufacturers around the world that put Dow's chemicals in running shoes, mattresses, adult diapers, baby wipes, and many other products. But it will also be a bellwether for a great many other people. When the spinoff is complete, Dow, which was founded in 1897, will be the first large industrial company with an openly gay chief executive officer and only the second major public company with a gay CEO, after Apple Inc.'s Tim Cook.  Continue...

Rice Brothers Step Up Fight to Control EQT

The Wall Street Journal - A pair of brothers is ramping up their fight against EQT Corp. EQT, seeking control of the board at the biggest natural-gas producer in the U.S. after selling their own company to it in 2017. Toby Rice and Derek Rice-who sold Rice Energy to EQT for $6.7 billion-have nominated a slate of nine directors to EQT's 12-member board, including Toby and another brother, Daniel Rice. Daniel is a member of the EQT board and was previously chief executive of Rice Energy.  Continue...
Hoppy Kercheval: Manchin vs. Justice

WV MetroNews

The scene is a deserted Great Hall of the State Capitol. Governor Jim Justice and Senator Joe Manchin slowly approach each other from opposite ends. Anxious Capitol employees warily sneak a glimpse from the side entrances to the hall. The only noise is the footsteps of Justice and Manchin. They stop, just a few feet from each other, eyes fixed, until Manchin breaks the silence.  

Continue...

Upcoming West Virginia Chamber Events

West Virginia Chamber 2019 Human Resources Conference

April 9-10, 2019

Register Now!

West Virginia Chamber 2019 Environmental & Energy Conference

May 15, 2019