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eNewsletter

The Independent Recruiter's Resource for Temporary and Contract Placements

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Forecast for 2009!

Certainly, it is going to be another interesting year for the staffing industry! While demand appears to be off somewhat for temporary and contract workers, many companies will rely on contingent workers during the recession. As the recession wears on, many companies may be reluctant to add "permanent" employees to their regular staff until the recovery is well underway. Like other recessions, when the economy slows down, temporary workers are usually the first to be let go. However, when things pick up, they are usually the first workers to be re-hired. If a recovery begins to take hold, 2009 could be an excellent year for temporary staffing. **We anticipate an increasing demand for temporary and contract workers likely beginning no later than mid-year!**

Staffing Jobs Declined in December and January

Data released by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that temporary help jobs dropped significantly in December. BLS adjusted data shows that temporary help employment declined 6.2% from November and was 19.9% lower than December of last year. December statistics show a 3.7% drop from November and a decrease of 19% from one year ago. Although temporary employment may continue to trend down slightly, some analysts are predicting that the market is stabilizing and that there is likely to be little change in temporary employment numbers from December 2008 and December 2009. BLS also reported that seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs declined by 524,000. This brings job losses in 2008 to 2.6 million, of which 1.9 million occurred in the last four months. The unemployment rate increased from 6.7% in November to 7.2% in December. January data shows temporary help employment fell 3.7% from December which was a 22.7% drop from a year ago. However, this is a slight improvement from September and October percentage drops which showed month-to-month declines of about 4%. (Source: ASA Staffing Week, 1/12/09; 2/9/09)

TFI Adds Commuter Benefits to Section 125 Plan

TFI Resources is now offering a payroll tax reimbursement plan for those temporary employees using public transportation or parking for work purposes! This reimbursement is an addition to our existing 125 Plan and works in much the same way. The amount an employee pays for public transportation or parking is deducted from their paycheck on a pre-tax basis and is then reimbursed to them. This allows the employee to gain a tax break on these dollars, as well as increase their take home pay. Please contact your payroll processor for more information on this new option for employees incurring commuting costs using public transportation.

Upcoming Events

Within the next several months, TFI will be attending the following events. Let us know if we're in your area!

- **March 6th:** Houston Area Association of Personnel Consultants (HAAPC) Annual Awards Banquet; The Junior League; Houston, Texas.
- **March 11th – 14th:** National Personnel Associates (NPA) Annual Convention; Marriott Plaza; San Antonio, Texas.
- **April 2nd – 4th:** Texas Association of Personnel Consultants (TAPC) State Conference; Omni Riverway; Houston, Texas.
- **April 2nd:** First Annual TAPC Tennis Tournament; Memorial Park Tennis Courts; 12:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.; Houston, Texas. TFI is sponsoring this event! To join in on the fun, go to www.TAPC.org and click on 'Events'.
- **May 28th – 30th:** California Staffing Professionals (CSP) Annual Conference; Marriott Desert Springs; Palm Desert, California.

Tidbits

Sara Greene has joined our newly expanded human resources department. Sara is currently working on an MBA in Human Resources at the University of Houston. Sara will use her experience as an account representative with TFI in becoming responsible for monitoring of regulatory compliance, implementing training procedures for new employees, and assisting with various marketing responsibilities. We have recently undergone a reorganization of our payroll department and have promoted **Colleen Ashford** and **Jeanae Morris** to payroll manager positions. **Patrick Blackwell**, **Lena Dahu**, and **Justina Schwarz** have assumed the responsibility of team leads.

Featured TFI Employee



Patrick Blackwell

Patrick joined the TFI team in December of 2006. He graduated from LSU with a bachelor's degree in psychology. Patrick is an avid LSU football fan and commutes to Baton Rouge for most home games. He served four years in the United States Navy as a meteorologist. Patrick's customer service skills have been an asset in his position as an account representative, and he has recently accepted additional responsibilities as the lead for a team of payroll processors.

Welcome.....



Katie Tully

Katie is a recent graduate from the University of Houston with a BBA in Finance. She started with TFI in July of 2008 as an account representative. Katie enjoys watching baseball games and is a loyal fan of the Houston Astros. Her hobbies include baking, reading historical fiction novels, and spending time with her family.



Hieu Tran

Hieu came to TFI in May of 2008. He graduated with an accounting degree from the University of Houston where he was involved with the Accounting Society. He has previous experience in tax accounting and is currently working as an account representative. Hieu is a sports enthusiast and has recently returned from a ski trip to Colorado where he attempted to learn snowboarding.