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The Analyst Resource Center is pleased to announce its third -

ARC Seminar 2008: Transforming Information for the Future

**Saint Louis, Missouri
October 28—30, 2008**

Seminar Features:

- Forward-thinking strategies
- Competitive advantages
- Fresh insight
- Information delivery tools
- Peer support & networking

Sampling of Workshop Topics:

- Open Source Development Tools
- Mapping the Real World
- Innovative Solutions on a Shoestring Budget
- LMI and Regional Economic Development
- Q & A with Technical and Policy Leaders

Who should Attend?

The ARC Seminar offers a collaborative environment for learning and sharing the latest in innovative approaches and technical solutions to address critical workforce and regional economic development information needs. Offering both policy and technical workshops, the seminar is a great opportunity for workforce and economic development professionals, administrators, and technical staff to engage in dialogue on how together they can improve systems and information transformation to better meet customers needs.

This three-day seminar, brought to you by the Analyst Resource Center with support from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, will be the only classroom/in-person networking opportunity offered in 2008 by the Analyst Resource Center.

Register online today at www.workforceinfodb.org

5 Things to Do in St Louis

1. Ride to the top of the [Gateway Arch](#), towering 630-feet over the Mississippi River.
2. Follow the footsteps of explorers Lewis & Clark at various historic attractions.
3. Explore [Forest Park's](#) 1,300 acres of lakes, walking paths and attractions.
4. Enjoy world-class free attractions, including the [Art Museum](#), [Zoo](#), [Science Center](#), [Anheuser-Busch Brewery](#), [Grant's Farm](#), and the [Missouri History Museum](#).
5. Attend the [ARC Seminar](#) (of course!)

To learn more about St Louis, visit <http://www.explorestlouis.com/visitors/25thingsOne.asp?pt=2>

St Louis photos courtesy of St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission

DBA in the Spotlight

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How long have you been involved in the world of LMI?

I have worked in LMI for 10 years. 3 years as a QCEW analyst, and the last 7 years as the LAUS analyst.

How long have you been a Workforce Information Database DBA?

I have been the DBA for the past 7 years.

What is your educational background?

I have a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Connecticut.

Are you originally from Rhode Island?

Yes – lived in Coventry, RI all my life.

What are your interests outside of work?

I enjoy cooking, going on walks, playing Texas Hold'em poker, and spending time with my beagle, Hunter. I frequently play golf, but I can't say I actually enjoy it. I think only Tiger truly enjoys golf!

What is your favorite work-related web site?

I am always on the Bureau of Labor Statistic's and Census Bureau's web sites, mostly looking for data for customer's requests that LMI does not typically provide. The Census' American FactFinder is particularly useful.

What training have you taken recently and would you recommend it to other DBAs?

Unfortunately, due to budget constraints I have not been to any training recently. I did attend the ALMIS database training in July 2006 in Madison and the ALMIS Database Seminar in August 2005 in San Diego and found both to be very informative.

What is the strangest job you ever held?

I wouldn't call it strange, but it had one of the best job benefits. I used to work as a customer service representative for a cable company. There was a television set everywhere you turned, tuned to a different channel. It was like getting paid while you watched TV.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your current job?

When I can actually find the data our customers are looking for!

What do you see as future challenges for DBAs?

Keeping up with the changes in technology while dealing with budget constraints.

What's your hidden talent?

I wouldn't call it a talent, more of an addiction. I love entering contests, and sometimes I actually win. The best prize so far was a trip to Spring Training in Fort Myers to see the Red Sox vs. Yankees in Spring 2007.

What's spinning on your CD player or on your iPod?

I usually listen to satellite radio. I enjoy current mainstream rock music, classical music, 60's and 70's music, and 80's hair bands (should I admit that?).

What are your most prized possessions?

I would never consider him a possession, but my beagle Hunter is certainly prized.

What is the most interesting or awe-inspiring place you've been?

Years ago I went to Switzerland, one of the most breath-taking landscapes you could ever imagine. I would return again in a minute. I love to travel.

Read any good books lately (personal or work-related) that you would recommend others read?

I usually only read for pleasure. My absolute favorite author is Janet Evanovich. I would recommend any of her books from her Stephanie Plum Series for a light, funny read. I also enjoy James Patterson, Stephen King, and Patricia Cromwell – easy but suspenseful reading.

New Logo



As of July 2007, the Analyst Resource Center adopted a new logo for the Workforce Information Database in order to present a consistent and recognizable identifier for customers.

The goal is to encourage states to incorporate the **WID logo** (as shown) on all of their online applications that use the WID. The intention is that eventually customers will come to recognize and associate the WID logo as synonymous with the highest quality of comparable local, regional, state and national workforce information available.

Logo graphics and related information are being sent to state DBAs and LMI Directors.

Workforce Information Database in Action!

Rhode Island

www.dlt.ri.gov/rired/

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Rhode Island Red Research & Economic Database. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "RI Red Home", "Services for Individuals", "Services for Employers", and "Labor Market Analysis". Below this is a registration section with fields for "Username:" and "Password:". The main content area is divided into several columns:

- Services for Individuals:** Job Seeker Services, Find A Job, Career Services, Career Steps, Job Market Explorer, Educational Services, Occupational Profile, Labor Market Services.
- Services for Employers:** Employer Service Unit, Tax Credits and Grants, Recruitment Services, Candidate Search, Labor Market Explorer, Job Market Explorer, Educational Services.
- Labor Market Analysis:** LMI Products*, Industry Data, Occupational Data, Labor Force Statistics, Income and Wages, Economic Indicators, Demographics, Area Profile, Industry Profile, Occupational Profile.
- Other Sites Worth Visiting:** netWORKri, Labor Standards, Apprenticeship, RI Dept of Human Services, RI.gov, RI Division of Taxation, RI Economic Development Corp., U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

At the bottom, there is a "What's new in RI Red....." section with a link to "Sign up today for LMI's Stat-Track...". The footer contains links for "LMI Products", "RI Maps", "FAQ's", "Contact LMI", "DLT Home", and "LMI Home", along with a "Privacy Statement" link and copyright information for Geographic Solutions.

SHARING OPPORTUNITY:

Would you like peer feedback on your own state's "Workforce Information Database in Action!"? Maybe you'd just like to show or share your hard work with others? If so, please contact us and we'd be glad to include your website or solution in the next issue of ARC eNews!

Remember we can also add links to ARC's website at www.workforceinfodb.org, that includes any links to web or database development sites you've found to be helpful and would like others to know about!

ARC Meeting Highlights

The Analyst Resource Center met March 4 - 6, 2008 in Austin, Texas.

Changes at ETA were summarized, including organizational structure and the departure of Emily DeRocco, Mason Bishop and ARC's previous grant officer, Olaf Bjorkland. ARC's newly appointed ETA grant officer is Greg Wilson. [Greg Wilson subsequently joined the ARC Workgroup meeting via conference call later in the morning to provide an update on ETA activities and perspective.]

Regarding budget, the ARC was granted a 90-day no cost extension in November 2007 for the existing grant that had expired on June 30, 2007. The no cost extension was extended through 6 months on any carryover funds. Carryover funds were available since funding was not received until late into the year and the workgroup only had until June 2007 to spend. Due to the new grants management system at ETA there will be no further no cost extensions allotted as of March 2008. The new grant for the time period beginning June 2007 and received in December 2007 will go through October 31, 2008.

ARC Discussion Items

The Structure Subcommittee was charged with assessing whether a full version release to Workforce Information Database Version 3.0 would be necessary in the near future. The subcommittee was also asked to look at what direction the WID should take (e.g. new data – including economic development, tool sets, structure, decennial census 2010).

The Education and Communication Subcommittee was tasked with locating a site for the ARC 2008 national seminar. The seminar is a valuable activity for the ARC as it provides an opportunity to showcase

workgroup services, products and recent activities with the workforce information community.

The Policy/Employer Database Subcommittee was charged with drafting an RFP for securing a new Employer Database contract.

The relevancy of interstate data sharing as it applies to Regional Economic Development makes the completion of the ADAM project paramount. North Carolina will be updating the ADAM technical documentation and its database platform. Because the project was started in 2002, some platforms have since become obsolete.

Texas petitioned for formal membership in the ARC Workgroup. ARC Chairperson, Bob Cottrell asked the group if there were any objections. Hearing no objections, Texas membership was approved.

A request had been made to release the documents associated with the WID in a format other than PDF. After discussions with the Structure Subcommittee chairperson, the decision was made to release the documents in Word format as well.

A request was made to release the source code on ADAM. The consensus was that states would be able to have the code, provided that they understood ARC would not be responsible for further support on the code. Release of ADAM, to requesting state agencies, is set to take place within a few months.

ETA National Update

Greg Wilson (ETA National Office) joined the workgroup via conference call and updated them in regards to current issues and areas of focus at ETA.

Greg Wilson and the ARC workgroup discussed the key/fundamental role that the WID and ARC played in the workforce information system and the need to have that foundational role conveyed in context of the current system.

Details of the upcoming Employer Database RFP, including ETA representation were also discussed.

State Updates

State representatives discussed the latest initiatives and issues in their respective states.

Workforce Information Council Update

Roger Therrien (CT) joined the workgroup via conference call and updated the group on the latest WIC activities.

Subcommittee Updates

Policy Subcommittee Update

States are highly encouraged to seek LMI Director representation on the ARC Workgroup. Currently, there is only one active LMI Director engaged in ARC Workgroup activities.

The past year has been spent working with ETA to secure funding and contract renewals.

Regarding core data elements, a few obsolete licensure tables were dropped. A statement will be included in the new workforce information grant.

Due to funding and scheduling issues there was a delay in the Employer Database RFP process but efforts are currently underway.

(Continued on page 5)

ARC Meeting Highlights... continued

Discussion was held regarding updating BLS extracts for WID database table structure. ARC will be contacting BLS program managers to discuss the possibility of updating the extracts.

Bob Cottrell asked the workgroup to consider the future direction of the ARC in terms of products and services offered (e.g. training, communication, database tools).

Education/Communication Subcommittee Update

The ARC was asked by Greg Wilson to build a "landing page" on our site from their Regional Economic Development website. The page (now in production at www.workforceinfodb.org/21RegionalDevelopment.cfm) details how our tools and services can be used in the context of Regional Economic Development.

Vicki Boylston reported that the Education/Communication subcommittee has been working on the 2008 ARC Seminar. Site visits were held at Austin hotels. Time-frame for the seminar is slated for late October 2008. Unfortunately, due to room rates that were in excess of Federal per diem, with unanimous workgroup agreement, the subcommittee recommended exploring opportunities in other more modestly priced and centrally located cities.

The Education and Training Subcommittee handed out goals and objectives developed for the upcoming ARC Seminar. They also gave a report on preliminary logistical plans for the seminar. The Subcommittee was granted unanimous approval from the ARC workgroup to proceed.

The workgroup discussed the new WID logo that was developed for entities to place on their respective web applications that identifies their product as being based on the WID. Information (and the logos) will be compiled and sent to states this spring.

Structure Subcommittee Update

Since the last meeting, there has been a change and release to WID Version 2.4 along with a new logo/branding.

The Structure Subcommittee agenda included reviewing suggestions to the Employer Database structure, new benefits survey table, status on LED, and discussion of a number of concepts regarding the future direction of WID as well as more immediate issues for WID Version 3.0.

Dana Placzek reported that the Structure Subcommittee had also discussed the need for an ongoing policy document/official WID handbook that details policy for issuance, naming conventions, etc.

NCSC Update

Steve Rosenow gave a report on the latest activities of the National Crosswalk Service Center (NCSC). They are working on the NCSC website (www.xwalkcenter.org) and moving to open source CMS.

The data source document for the WID is being revised. It was sent to the Structure Subcommittee and NCSC is about to publish in a wiki for others to contribute to. It should be available fairly soon.

NCSC has been more active in developing content for the prototype demographics tables. NCSC has

developed content for two states and added the 2006 data from the American Community Survey. In cooperation with ACINet, the NCSC will offer enhanced school files with county FIPS codes and the geocoding (latitude and longitude) recently added to the SCHOOLS table in the WID. Once this is complete, the NCSC will be able to offer state-specific education databases.

Since the last ARC meeting, the center has finalized licensing updates for 13 states and sent three updated databases to ACINet. The ACINet application makes use of a recent addition to the WID, a URL field for displaying licensing agencies web sites. In response to a request by ACINet, the NCSC tested over 1,300 links found in states' LICAUTH tables and updated nearly 400 of those for the ACINet licensing application. Those updates were furnished to state DBAs.

NCSC will be working on a Department of Defense crosswalk enhancement in partnership with Defense Manpower Data Center and the National O*NET Center.

Future Meeting

One of the cities proposed for the ARC Seminar was St. Louis, Missouri. The group agreed to tentatively hold their next ARC Workgroup meeting in St. Louis in mid-June 2008.

ARC eNews Editor in the Spotlight

Marilyn Skalberg

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Since it's first issue in 2003, the ARC eNews has spotlighted over 30 DBAs from across the nation. Please let me know if you'd like to participate or have some fun questions you'd like answered by other DBAs! Thanks for letting me indulge and interview myself this time!

How long have you been involved in the world of LMI?

Twelve years. I worked in the Nebraska LMI office as a Research Analyst and then as a Statistical Analyst III for about 6 years. I've also worked as an LMI Institute trainer and have been a communications consultant for the ARC since 2001.

How long were you a Workforce Information Database DBA?

I was a Workforce Information Database DBA for about 5 years and I was a technical rep for Nebraska on the (then) ALMIS Database Consortium and sat through many a Structure Subcommittee meeting. That's when my caffeine addiction began.

What is your educational background?

Much to my parent's chagrin, they say I'm destined to be a career student. I have an associate's degree from Mendocino College in California, a bachelors degree in Psychology (with a double English/Sociology minor) from the University of Nebraska, and just received a

bachelors of fine arts in painting from the University of Oregon this month. I'll be applying to graduate schools this winter.

Are you originally from Oregon?

No. I grew up in eastern Nebraska and the remote northern California redwoods. I've been in Oregon since 2003 and love it.

What are your interests outside of work?

There's life outside of work? I have 3 kids and one on the way. In my spare time... oh who am I kidding... I have no spare time.

What is your favorite work-related website(s)?

www.doleta.gov, [Webmonkey](http://Webmonkey.com), [Farecast](http://Farecast.com), Drupal.org, WorkforceATM.org, [Google](http://Google.com), www.workforceinfodb.org and www.xwalkcenter.org (of course!)

What training have you taken recently and would you recommend it to other DBAs?

I haven't been to any formal tech training lately but I've been dabbling in web development and have spent a lot of time learning Drupal as a development/CMS tool. Good stuff.

What is the strangest job you ever held?

I drove the mail truck for a sawmill in Northern California when I was about 19 years old. Most of my route was on a one lane dirt road up in the mountains. People wouldn't put stamps on their mail, they'd tape spare change on their envelopes. If you met a logging truck one of you

would have to back up and rest assured it wasn't going to be the logging truck. Not only did I deliver mail but I also picked up the daily Hostess/bread order for the company store and spare parts for the sawmill. Those were the days...

What is the most rewarding aspect of your current job?

The relationships I've developed with my talented, dedicated colleagues over the years. Getting away from the kids for a week a couple of times a year ain't too bad either!

What do you see as future challenges for DBAs?

Continuing to meet and/or exceed customers needs on a tight (or nonexistent) budget.

What's your hidden talent?

It's not a hidden talent as much as a hidden quirk and now not so hidden—I count cracks in the pavement or shadows that fall on the road when I'm driving.

What's spinning on your CD player or on your iPod?

My iPod currently has Natalie Merchant, Dean Martin, Wayne Hancock, Coltrane, and a few bluegrass tunes.

Read any good books lately (personal or work-related) that you would recommend others read?

Lately, all I've been reading are articles for my Ecotheory in Art and Literature class, including: Michel De Certeau's *Walking in the City*, poetry by William Carlos Williams, Deleuze and Guattari, and *How We Became Posthuman* by K. Hayles.

Rosenow Wins ACSCI President's Award

At the Association of Computer-based Systems for Career Information (ACSCI) conference in December 2007, Steve Rosenow, manager of the National Crosswalk Service Center was awarded the President's Award from Laurence Shatkin, ACSCI president.

The ACSCI is a professional association, formed in 1978, for the advancement of career information and its delivery. The association has worked to advance the use and improvement of career information, information technology, and services to users through standards, professional development opportunities, and public information.

Excerpt from the award presentation: "Yesterday Kathy Watkins, remarked that she "lives for databases", and those words spoke for me and for many of us here - at least in terms of our working lives.

Databases are at the heart of what we do at work, and are essential to our services for our clients. But for

a database to be valuable to us, it has to be in usable form and has to be linked to other databases that we use. The person I'm honoring has been providing these databases and linkages for us and has been doing so for more years than either he or I would like to count. If he didn't exist, we'd have to invent him. As we learned yesterday, someone else almost was chosen for the position he now holds (**See endnote for more on that!), but an incidence of happenstance caused that position to be occupied by this honoree.

If we learned anything from John Krumboltz yesterday, it's that happenstance alone does not guarantee success. Happenstance provides only opportunities for achievement that we can turn into accomplishments IF we have the skills and motivation to seize the opportunities and run with them.

We're all lucky that this honoree indeed has the necessary skills and motivation. In fact, I can't imagine anyone who could discharge the duties of this position with more competence and good cheer than



Steve Rosenow (l) accepting the President's Award from ACSCI president Laurence Shatkin.
Photo courtesy ACSCI

this person has done and continues to do. And I'm honoring that competence and good cheer, as well as the debt that all of us owe him, by presenting the President's Award to the Manager of the National Crosswalk Service Center, Steve Rosenow."

** According to Steve, the job he originally got working for the State of Iowa (which led to his position now), was actually offered and accepted by someone else, but that guy didn't show up on the first day of work, so Steve got the job - talk about fate!

CONGRATULATIONS STEVE!!
... from all of us at ARC

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The Workforce Information Database is a normalized, relational database structure developed for the storage and maintenance of labor market, economic, demographic and occupational information. The Analyst Resource Center is responsible for the Workforce Information Database structure development, update, and maintenance. Members include North Carolina (lead), Connecticut, Georgia, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Wisconsin, Texas, Wyoming, and ETA, along with support from the National Crosswalk Service Center.