

CAREERS

Briefs

Study: Immigrants actually create more jobs for Americans

Stephon Johnson/New York Amsterdam News/NNPA – Despite what many people think about immigration and jobs in the United States, immigrants may actually help create jobs, according to a new study.

The study, "Immigrants and American Jobs," conducted by economist and professor Madeline Zavodny on behalf of the American Enterprise Institute and the Partnership for a New American Economy, analyzed the relationship between the foreign-born workforce and the employment rate for natural-born American workers. The report focused on two groups that policymakers and employers call critical to the economy: foreign-born adults with advanced degrees and foreign workers here on temporary employment visas.



Zavodny

According to the study, in both cases, more foreign-born workers meant more jobs for Americans with almost 262 more native-born workers employed for every 100 foreign-born workers with advanced degrees who work in science, technology, engineering or math, often referred to as the "STEM" fields.

The report also analyzed the fiscal impact of foreign-born workers and found that, on average, all immigrants pay more in taxes than they receive in benefits—particularly highly educated immigrants.

"This report adds important evidence to the case that economists have been making for years: that identifiable categories of immigrants unquestionably give a lift to native employment," said Zavodny, an economics professor at Agnes Scott College. "But I hope it's not just economists who take note—the study offers insight for legislators who need to know what's at stake in immigration policy."

Thomas Built rehires workers

High Point-based Thomas Built Buses recently recalled 125 production line workers to rejoin the workforce. The increase in production capacity and hiring comes in response to a strong order backlog and company expectations for continued growth in early 2012.

The sale of 12 Thomas Built buses, on average, provides a job for one person for one year, and the sale of 1,000 buses provides employment for 83 people for a year.

"It is very refreshing to be able to call back our laid off brothers and sisters and give them good news," said John Crawford, president of the United Auto Workers Local 5287. "Together, the company and the union have been working very hard to build an affordable, quality product while at the same time providing good paying jobs with great benefits. More local jobs put more money back into the community and helps to support small businesses in the area."

Kelley Platt, president and CEO of Thomas Built Buses, says when the company is doing well, it causes a "ripple effect."

"We buy materials and parts from local suppliers, which employ additional Carolinians," he said. "And when we invest in our facilities, like our newest plant built in 2003 and our more than \$10 million remodel of two other plants in 2007 and 2008, a large percentage of those funds are funneled directly into the local economy through purchased materials, contracted labor and taxes."

Thomas Built Buses utilizes more than 100 suppliers in North and South Carolina and, on average, \$28,000 of the purchase price of each Thomas Built Saf-T-Liner C2 bus remains in the Carolinas.

Council for Women leader named

Secretary Moses Carey Jr. has announced his appointment of Beth Briggs of Raleigh as executive director of the N.C. Council for Women (CFW). A member of the Council since her September 2010 appointment by Gov. Bev Perdue, Briggs is founder and president of Creative Philanthropy Consulting Inc.



Briggs

The CFW, which includes the N.C. Domestic Violence Commission, provides advocacy services for women and grants resources through Displaced Homemaker, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault programs. Its work and mission were addressed by lawmakers during the last session, resulting in a reduced workforce and expanded grant responsibilities.

Briggs' professional experience includes serving as president of the N.C. Public Television Foundation; co-founder and president of the Capital Consortium consulting firm; and director of development for both the U.S. Olympic Festival and the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research. Shortly after graduating from the University of North Carolina with a bachelor's degree in psychology, she launched her career by serving as assistant director of the Public Welfare Foundation in Washington, D.C., and later became associate director of the Asheville Community Foundation.

It's Up to Us All.

Democrats deposit millions in NC minority-owned banks

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

As a sign of its commitment to fostering economic opportunities for minorities – its most loyal constituencies – the Democratic National Convention Committee (DNCC) last week deposited \$2 million in non-interest bearing accounts at both black-owned Mechanics and Farmers Bank and the Latino Community Credit Union.

"The DNCC is working to bring Americans together to strengthen the economy in a way that creates more opportunity for all communities," said DNCC CEO Steve Kerrigan. "The funds deposited with Mechanics and Farmers Bank and the Latino Community Credit Union will help these institutions expand lending and economic development efforts to communities across the state."

DNCC officials were joined by representatives from both North Carolina-based financial institutions at a press conference late last week at one of Durham's most historic sites.

"The historic North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Building, the oldest and first African American-owned insurance company in the country, is a fitting backdrop for this announcement," Kerrigan said.

The announcements came months before the start of the 2012 Democratic National Convention, which will be held in Charlotte from Sept. 3-7. With each convention, the DNCC has made a practice of depositing a portion of its federal grant in minority-owned banks in the city where the Democratic National Convention is

being held. The tradition aims to provide local business institutions and their customers with financial and public support in advance of the convention.

"Mechanics and Farmers Bank and the Latino Community Credit Union are strong community partners, and the convention's investment in these banks will make a difference where it matters in the city of Durham and across the state of North Carolina," said Durham Mayor Bill Bell. "We value the DNCC's commitment to diversity in choosing these two institutions."

M&F and the LCCU have branches throughout the state, including in Winston-Salem. M&F President and CEO Kim Saunders thanked the DNCC for choosing M&F.

"As one of North Carolina's select few Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), Mechanics and Farmers Bank plays a critical role in expanding access to capital and providing lending services to North Carolina markets that traditionally have been underserved," she said.

LCCU Vice President for Finance Alison Beck Yonas said the deposit will be put to good use.

"It will continue to help us put deposits from institutions and individuals to work to help improve our local communities, through loans for working families to own their own homes, to build a credit history or to improve their microbusiness," she said. "LCCU's presence has been shown to reduce crime and improve property values, for the benefit of all North Carolinians."



Saunders



Kerrigan

Malave takes helm at GRRRA

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Greensboro Regional Realtors Association (GRRRA) kicked off the new year with the installation of a new president, Lolita Malave.

She officially became the Association's leader Tuesday at an installation luncheon.

The event was expected to feature a slew of special guests, including State Sen. Don Vaughan.



Malave

Greensboro Mayor Robbie Perkins, Greensboro City Council Members James Kee and Zack Matheny and Guilford County Commissioners Bruce Davis and Kirk Perkins.

Malave, who will serve as president for a year, succeeds 2011 President Kathleen Sullivan, who has now assumed the role of past president. She is a Realtor at Greensboro's Prudential Yost & Little Realty. Malave has been a GRRRA member for more than 11 years. She has been actively involved, either as a GRRRA Board member or volunteer, since the beginning.

She has also represented the interests of GRRRA members and all Realtors as a member of the N.C. Realtors Association. Malave's NCRA duties took her to both Raleigh and Washington, D.C., where she lobbied lawmakers on behalf of Realtors.

The GRRRA, located at 23 Oak Branch Drive, works to support its members in their business pursuits by promoting the highest professional ethics and being the primary provider for quality services, education and real estate information in the market area.



Paysour



Speech

New roles for ESR staffers

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Experiment in Self-Reliance team is now a bit larger.

Sherri Paysour was recently named the agency's Self-Sufficiency Program Manager. She will oversee and coordinate ESR's flagship programs and provide leadership to staff and community partners.

Paysour has been an ESR employee for two years. She came to the agency from the Northwest Piedmont Council of Governments, an ESR workforce development partner agency.

ESR has named Kindra Speech its Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Program Manager. She will oversee the more than 100 volunteers that will man nine tax preparation sites throughout the community. Speech has been with ESR since April of 2011.

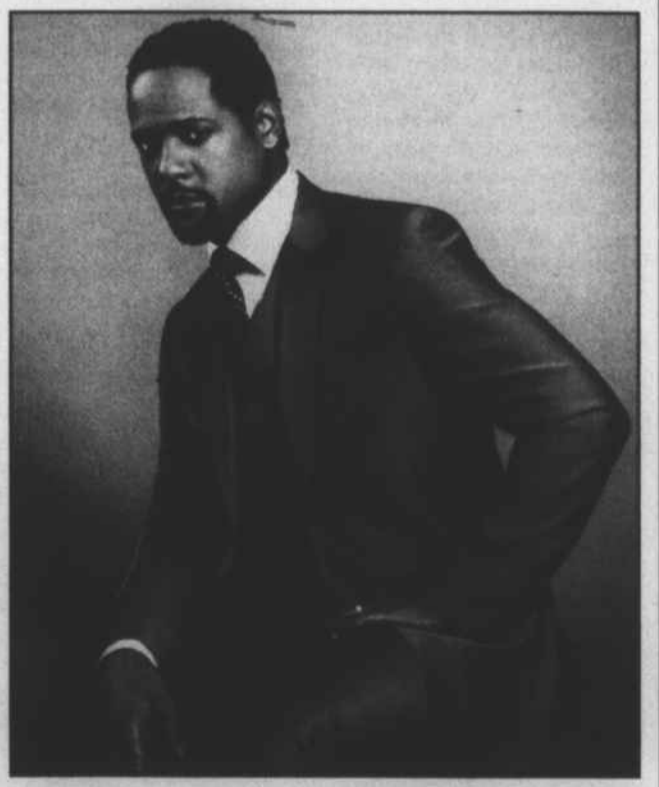
ESR serves families who have suf-

See ESR on A5

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

PRNews/Foto/K&G Fashion Superstore

Actor Blair Underwood is branching out. Here, he is in a two-button, 100 percent wool-vested suit. It is part of his BU Collection, a premier line of men's tailored suits. Underwood's threads are currently available exclusively at K&G Fashion Superstore, which has stores throughout the country, and on KGStores.com.



Besse, Montgomery take NLC leadership posts

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Council Members Dan Besse and Derwin Montgomery will play active roles in the National League of Cities.

Besse, who represents the city's Southwest Ward, was elected to NLC's Board of Directors last November.

Montgomery was appointed the Region 18 director for the NLC's National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, which represents the interests of NLC's African-



Council Member Besse



Montgomery

See NLC on A5