

# Overhaul of Unemployment Proposed

## Obama says system should offer job training

(AP) -- President Barack Obama wants unemployment insurance to become a stepping stone for future work by making it easier to enroll in school or job training. Whether he succeeds will depend on the willingness of states and colleges to change the rules.

People who have been laid off and want to go back to

school often have to give up their monthly unemployment checks. And if they decide to return to school, they often don't qualify for federal aid because eligibility is based upon the previous year's income.

Under rule changes Obama outlined Friday, the Labor Department will ask states to make exceptions during economic

downturns so that the unemployed can keep their benefits, if they go to community college or pursue other education or training.

State governments, not Washington, decide who is eligible for unemployment, and they generally require anyone collecting assistance to be actively looking for work. That



President Barack Obama speaks about jobs and revamping the unemployment system by offering job training to displaced workers. (AP Photo)

can complicate plans to attend school.

The Education Department, meanwhile, will encourage colleges to factor in the financial situation of an unemployed person applying for Pell Grants or other education and job training aid. Starting in July, the maximum Pell Grant, which helps low-income students afford college, will receive a \$500 boost to \$5,350.

Community colleges applauded the president's plan. George Boggs, president of the American Association of Community Colleges, said Obama would remove obstacles that keep the unemployed from heading back to school. The association represents about 1,200 such colleges.

"Sometimes we don't give our government credit for doing things that make sense," Boggs said. "It's great to see government stepping in and removing these disincentives."

However, one state-level critic accused Obama of avoiding the question of cost.

"Like so many of the president's initiatives, the answer for who pays the bill is state taxpayers and future generations," said South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford, a Republican and one of Obama's sharp critics on spending issues.

"No matter how well-intentioned this proposal is, we can't keep stacking debt on top of debt to deal with problems that were, in many cases, created by too much borrowing," Sanford

said.

Obama said it was time to change "senseless rules" that discourage displaced workers from getting needed education and training so they can find and perform the jobs of the future.

"The idea here is to fundamentally change our approach to unemployment in this country, so that it's no longer just a time to look for a new job, but is also a time to prepare yourself for a better job," Obama said.

"That's what our unemployment system should be — not just a safety net, but a stepping stone to a new future. It should offer folks educational opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have," the president said.



"Marylhurst University consistently provides me new knowledge that I apply at work the next day. The instructors have a personal approach that makes Marylhurst a wonderful place to learn and grow. They understand the challenges facing the working student and connect learning to real world applications." — Jerry Buckner

### Tomorrow's LEADERS

are in our classrooms today.

Create your own pathway to success with an undergraduate business degree from Marylhurst University.

Learn more at our

**OPEN HOUSE**

Thursday, June 4, 2009 • 6:30 p.m.  
BP John Administration Bldg, Rm 200

For more information or to RSVP:  
503-699-6268

www.marylhurst.edu/leaders

10 miles south of Portland on Highway 43

MARYLHURST UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SINCE 1893

Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc.  
Proudly Presents the

2009

## WOMEN in Trades Career Fair

Saturday, May 16  
9 am - 3 pm

NECA/IBEW Electrical Training Center

16021 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97230

FREE admission, child care, parking & EcoShuttle from Gateway

### The Fair Goes Green!

Meet Employers, Attend Hands-on Workshops, Learn About the Green Future of the Trades



www.tradeswomen.net

## Minority Entrepreneurs Tapped for Micro Lending

The Small Business Administration has approved the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME) as a micro lender to help small businesses in need of capital and laid-off workers who are starting their own businesses, officials of the federal agency announced on May 6.

The SBA support will give OAME a total of \$1.1 million to lend to small businesses immediately, with an optional ceiling of \$3.5 million.

"The lack of cash flow is what kills small businesses," said Sam Brooks, OAME president



Sam Brooks and chairman

He said OAME will use the monies to make small loans to local businesses that range

from \$500 to \$35,000 and are interest free. Each loan application will be reviewed by OAME's loan committee.

Brooks said the loans are mostly intended to give small businesses a quick bump to keep them going. OAME will also provide technical support to borrowers to help their businesses thrive.

He said the loans aren't really meant for someone who just has an idea, with no business or marketing strategy.

For more information call OAME at 503-249-7744 or visit oame.org.

## Faculty Internships in College Teaching



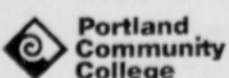
Get experience.  
Get connected.  
Get started on your college teaching career.

This program pairs aspiring instructors with experienced college faculty in their field of expertise for a year-long experience in the teaching profession.

Our goal is to further diversify the ranks of college faculty by introducing the profession to people with diverse multicultural and ethnic backgrounds, along with a desire to be excellent community college faculty, counselors or librarians.

**How to Apply**  
Go to [www.pcc.edu/interns](http://www.pcc.edu/interns) or call 503-978-5841.

For best consideration apply by July 17, 2009.



We're all about your future.



## Neighbors Make a Difference

Portland banker Rolly Brigham of KeyBank lends her hands to helping a disabled elderly woman with massive yard work on national Neighbors Make the Difference Day. She joined 300 of her fellow employees May 5 for the 19th annual day of volunteer community service.

## U S Soldier Kills Five in Iraq

(AP) -- An American soldier opened fire at a counseling center on a military base in Iraq Monday, killing five fellow soldiers, the U.S. command and Pentagon officials said.

Although it was unclear what prompted the shooting, the incident draws attention to the issue of combat stress and morale after six years of war as the mission of the 130,000-strong force transforms to one of training and mentoring the Iraqis.

President Barack Obama said he was "shocked and deeply saddened" by the report, adding that "my heart goes out to the families and friends" of all those involved "in this horrible tragedy."

After a meeting with Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Obama said he would make sure "that we fully understand what led to this tragedy" and will do everything possible "to ensure that our men and women in uniform are pro-

ted as they serve our country so capably and courageously in harm's way."

A brief U.S. military statement said the assailant John M. Russell, was taken into custody following the 2 p.m. shooting at Camp Liberty, a sprawling U.S. base on the western edge of Baghdad near the city's international airport.

Officials said Russell was referred to the clinic by his superiors, presumably because of concern over his mental state.