

Cable channel beams help to 223,000 jobless

Metropolitan Detroit's 223,000 unemployed soon will be able to turn on the television to 24-hour local cable programming devoted to their job-hunting, retraining and family survival needs.

The new cable and microwave dish-received television channel — called "The Working Channel" — offers more than television shows one just watches. Viewers will become actively involved in the program — called CISU, for "Communication-Information System for the Unemployed." It is federally funded.

Karl Wagner, CISU chairman and vice president of Macomb Community College, said The Working Channel's purpose is to bring together all organizations and information of use to the unemployed.

THE NEW television channel is available to every cable system in the tri-county area. It will offer eight hours of programming, repeated three times a day. Wagner said that four general categories of programming will be offered:

- A daily one-hour, live Working Circle networking show, with videoconferencing;
- As many as four hours a day of live, video-conference programs produced by agencies and organizations to discuss issues or services of value to the unemployed;
- 12 hours a day of pre-produced training and educational programs such as high school equivalency series, on job seeking, interviewing techniques, skills training, and other educational series of pertinence to the unemployed;
- A daily one-hour, live news show, called Survival News, whose reportage will be exclusively directed to the information needs of the unemployed.

USING AN on-screen character generator, Michigan Employment Security Commission will publish listings of job openings in full-hour segments several times a day.

News and Information services, employment

and economic trends, gathered by CISU and its participating institutions, will also be displayed.

The unemployed in cabled suburban communities should call their local cable systems to find out when The Working Channel will be offered in their communities.

Networking groups of job-seekers will meet at any one of 100 Working Channel centers being established during the next several months throughout Detroit, Wayne County and southern Oakland and Macomb counties.

Each will be plugged into The Working Channel signal by cable in most suburban areas, or by microwave receiving dish in noncabled areas such as Detroit.

THROUGH THE end of June, CISU is operating under a six-month, \$450,000 grant from the federal Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). Application for continued funding is now in process.

Institutions spearheading the development of The

Male sex victims conference topic

Are men who rape also victims?

The issue of male sexual assault and ways to prevent child sexual abuse will be discussed at a conference on sexual assault June 19 in Mercy Conference Center, Southfield freeway at Outer Drive, Detroit.

"Missing Pieces in Sexual Abuse: Assessment and Treatment of Male Victims and Offenders" is sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Anti-Rape Network (SEMARN). SEMARN is a six-county coalition of individuals and agencies interested in the prevention and treatment of sexual assault.

Featured speaker will be Dr. A. Nicholas Groth, a clinical psychologist and director of the sex offender program at the Connecticut Department of Corrections.

Cost is \$35 for regular registration and \$20 for media. For information, phone Bob O'Brien at 345-3242 or Sue Elling at 691-5700.

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