

Press Release

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Joint cooperative venture launches new Web site for Alabama & West Virginia residents

Alabama – June 12 – The Workforce Education and Career Assistance Network4u (WECAN4U), a uniquely comprehensive Web site (www.wecan4u.net), is the result of a multi-state cooperative agreement between the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University Cooperating) and West Virginia State College. WECAN4U puts workforce, business, education, economic and financial information right at the fingertips of Alabama & West Virginia residents; however, anyone can access this information worldwide.

“WECAN4U was designed to provide easy Internet access to a diverse audience, including low-income individuals preparing for the job market,” says West Virginia State College Extension Specialist Ray Ali. Rosalie Lane of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System further states, “It is also a great tool in helping to close the digital divide among urban and rural communities.”

The site is divided into six categories under each state:

- *Employment* – Direct links to local, state and national sites that contain employment information
- *Education & Training* – Public and private institutions that offer degree programs, certificates and localized training opportunities
- *Legislation* – Federal and state workforce legislation (Workforce Investment Act of 1998)
- *Starting Your Own Business* – Local, state and national resources for both adult & youth entrepreneurs
- *Statistics* – Local, state and national-at-a-glance economic statistics
- *Financial* – General financial resources, including strategies on budgeting, investing, and calculating monetary approaches

Workforce Extension Specialists Rosalie Lane and Ray Ali met and shared ideas at a national workforce development conference. As a result of their efforts, a multi-state project and agreement was created between two land-grant institutions to help serve the residents of Alabama and West Virginia. Lane is on staff at the Urban Affairs & New Nontraditional Programs Unit of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System housed at Alabama A&M University, while Ray Ali works for the Department of Land-Grant Programs, West Virginia State College.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work in agriculture and home economics, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, and other related acts, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) offers educational programs, materials and equal opportunity employment to all people without regard to race, color, natural origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability.