

The Quoin Evening Call

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**PINCKNEYVILLE**  
As Perry County braces for the closure of the Technicolor-Universal Media Services (TUMS) factory in Pinckneyville, regional agencies are gearing up help the over 440 workers who will lose their jobs because of the shutdown.

Pinckneyville city council members on Monday heard from Kathy Lively, executive director of Man-Tra-Con Corporation, a non-profit agency that works with the state in serving dislocated workers.

"This closure puts your community and our region in transition," Lively told commissioners. "We're 100 percent committed to serving your workers."

Since the Pinckneyville plant is closing to move jobs overseas—Technicolor plans to reconfigure its DVD manufacturing to a factory in Guadalajara, Mexico—TUMS workers who choose to attend college classes for retraining can receive up to 104 weeks of unemployment benefits.

Lively said Man-Tra-Con should have around \$2 million available in funds to assist laid-off Technicolor workers retraining for other jobs.

Laid-off employees can receive help from Man-Tra-Con's programs to pay for tuition, fees, child care and mileage and vehicle repair to attend classes. Workers could also get reimbursement for relocation costs in some situations.

Meanwhile, Man-Tra-Con will assist local leaders in forming a transition committee that will target retraining opportunities for laid-off TUMS employees. Pre-layoff workshops are scheduled at the plant on Feb. 21 and 22 for union workers at the factory, while non-union employees can attend a similar session on Feb. 23.

The workshops will be conducted by a statewide rapid response team made up of representatives from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Department of Employment Services, the AFL-CIO and Man-Tra-Con.

Jamie Galli, rapid response manager for Man-Tra-Con, told commissioners that the agency established connections both with Technicolor and officials from the Service Employees International Union Local 1 last year when Technicolor laid off over 200 union workers by closing the factory's DVD packaging department. That



Man-Tra-Con  
Director Kathy Lively

## TUMS Retraining at a Glance

### Pre-Layoff Workshops at Technicolor

**Union Workers:** Feb. 21 and 22 at 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

**Non-Union Workers:** Feb. 23 at 9 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Seminars will focus on retraining opportunities and college programs to help workers move on to other jobs once the TUMS plant closes by the end of March.

### For More Information

Contact Man-Tra-Con's Du Quoin office at 542-9991 or stop by the office at 82 Southtown Shopping Center in Du Quoin. Visit [www.Transitionnet.com](http://www.Transitionnet.com) on the internet for information on services for dislocated workers and their families, job search information, tools for transition, educational opportunities, relocation information and a calendar of upcoming events for job seekers.

layoff also affected around 1,000 employees of Westaff, a temporary agency that supplied personnel for TUMS over the last several years.

Galli said that 115 workers hit by the 2006 TUMS layoffs are currently attending training through Man-Tra-Con's programs. Forty-five former Technicolor workers are taking classes at Rend Lake College, while 40 are pursuing retraining opportunities at John A. Logan College and 8 are enrolled at Southern Illinois University. Galli said 22 former TUMS employees are completing retraining programs at other schools in the region.

Lively asked city council members as well as Perry County communities to consider practical ways to help Technicolor workers as they transition from one job to another. Man-Tra-Con is establishing a volunteer corps to help with tutoring, resume writing, personal budgets, child care and other issues workers will face during the upcoming months.

"Please consider helping us as we serve your workers," Lively said.