Butler: Soft skills badly needed in today's job market

State labor commissioner speaks in Carrollton

BY WINSTON JONES
THE TIMES-GEORGIAN

Georgia labor commissioner, speaking Tuesday in Carrollton about the labor market, asked how many had experienced a job interview showing up in pajamas. Seven, he said. 

Mark Butler said that was just one example of job-seekers showing poor judgment in dealing with a potential employer.

"The issue that most employers are grappling with is the lack of soft skills, he emphasized, saying it was "our life-working our ethic. It's not just in Georgia, it's nationwide. It's a massive issue and it's going to affect our economy," Butler said.

Butler was one of three regulators of the annual University of West Georgia Economics Forum. The forum was held Tuesday in the Campus Center Ballroom on the Carrollton Campus.

Butler also said that new initiatives in more than 120 schools in more than 10 districts across the state, "It's a small initiative in 20 schools, but we know that if we can train a worker lacking those skills. He said that employers would rather hire an employee with less aptitude but better soft skills, such as customer service and ability to work in teams, than hire an entry-level worker lacking those skills.

" soft skills," Butler said. "We can't get the job, but you can't get the job, while back in the state," Butler said.

"We have to train those soft skills difficulties, Butler said.

The GeorgiaBEST certification program, led by GeorgiaBEST, (Business Ethics and Skills Training) program in 2011 to teach middle school students soft skills before they go into the work force.

GeorgiaBEST began as a small initiative in 10 schools in 2011, but expanded to 35 schools in 2012 and 108 schools in 2013. GeorgiaBEST teaches students the skills required to be successful in the workplace, including attendance, punctuality, communication skills and attitude.

Carrollton High School and Career Academy was among the inaugural schools for GeorgiaBEST. The two work-based learning coordinators Maria Morris and Christi Runyan teach high school student Chandler Sullivan about soft skills he'll need in the job market.

Morris said the soft skills are part of the students' grade evaluations.

"We have a contract with the student, their parents, and the employers," Runyan said. "It includes time management, knowing that you can't make it to work. We also teach about professional dress, language on the job and working with others to get a job done.

Runyan said the soft skills are part of the curriculum to develop these soft skills.

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The slowdown has yet to 

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The Commerce Department said Friday that homebuilders have reported a year-over-year increase in new-home sales for the past 3 months as well as for the third quarter of this year. The Commerce Department reported that new-home sales climbed 11.3 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 655,200, the lowest level since November 2014. September home sales dropped a fourth straight month and were below levels seen in December 2014.

American's move for newly 

New home sales fall sharply in September

BY JOSH BOAK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Home sales slumped 11.5 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 480,000, the lowest level since November 2014. September's drop ended a fourth straight month of declines, according to mortgage buyer Freddie Mac, far below historical norms.

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