



FAR WEST  
enterprises

Your  
Public Relations  
Navigator



## **SPECIALIZED TEMP AGENCIES FILL VARIED NICHES (Published November 19, 2005, Columbia Business Times) - 11/19/2005**

November 10, 2005

About 650 Words

Contact: Jim Muench  
Far West Enterprises  
(573) 499-4897

### SPECIALIZED TEMP AGENCIES FILL VARIED NICHES

COLUMBIA, Mo. – Many temporary agencies specialize in providing clerical help, but when a business needs to fill a position that demands a particular skill, a specialized agency may be the way to go.

Specialized agencies in Columbia provide temporary workers in such fields as manufacturing, construction, nursing and human resources.

Labor Ready Inc. focuses on providing factory workers, construction workers and general laborers for short-term jobs. Sheina Falcone, manager of Labor Ready, said construction companies may call when they need help with cleanup at a site or when a hotel needs to move furniture. "Usually when it's like construction or short-term, they call us because we have no contracts or finders fees," Falcone said.

She said employers can hire her clients after four hours of work. "If you need us just for two hours, we can help you for two hours; if you need us for a year, we can help you in a year, at no cost for the service," she said.

For medical facilities on the lookout for supplemental staffing, Medical Staffing Network supplies Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses and Certified Nursing Assistants to all of the city's hospitals and clinics. The company also provides private-duty nurses for people who need close supervision.

Based in Boca Raton, Fla., Columbia's office is one of 125 around the country. Melinda Finnegan, the local branch manager, said she operates two other divisions of the company locally as well: Allied, which supplies respiratory therapists; and GSN Staffing, which provides industrial, clerical and professional staffing for temp-to-hire positions.

She said hers is a "per diem" agency, which means staffing on a daily basis, an arrangement that can be advantageous to nurses because it gives them flexibility. "They can work a full-time job and then pick up additional shifts throughout the week, or some of them just want to work three days a week, and that's what they pick up," she said.

Finnegan said nurse staffing agencies pay better, and hers offers benefits that are similar to a full-time job in terms of 401K, insurance, vacation pay and continuing education units.

Another advantage is that nurses can pick up additional skill sets by working in different parts of a hospital.

"Agency work is not glamorous or anything, but it is a way for everybody to have flexible scheduling if they want to, and the facilities are able to order somebody at the last minute to fill their staffing need," she said.

Another agency, Human Resource Staffing Inc., prefers helping company human resources departments recruit employees, sift through applications and perform HR functions such as payroll. The company does not prefer to handle temporary work unless it is with an existing company that wants an employee for a couple of months.

"For the most part, when someone calls me up and says, 'Hey, I have a temp position available,' I usually don't take it because I have trouble staffing it with a quality person," said Jim Wright, sales manager for Human Resource Staffing. "If it is a temp-to-hire position that might lead to permanent employment, I'm willing to discuss it, but if it is a day labor situation, we will probably decline it."

Human Resource is currently helping companies find staff in areas such as assembly, light industrial, clerical and information technology. Wright said his company is now moving toward more direct-hire positions, in which he directly helps client human resource departments recruit new workers. His company also can provide payroll services for clients if they need it.

Wright said that HR departments now take on such functions as benefits, employee relations and safety coordination, which are so time consuming that recruitment becomes a burden. "When you're an HR department and you're looking for someone to fill a position, you'll just get droves of applications, and to have to sift through that is really tough," Wright said. "We know the questions to ask to make sure that you get the right people."

###

