

Sundance turns lens to the jobless

By: **Patrick Gavin**

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With the economy the central issue in this year's presidential election — or supposed to be, anyway — the Sundance Channel is out with a timely series on the subject: "Get to Work."

The **series**, which screens in Washington on Wednesday night and premieres on Aug. 13, looks at Second Chance in San Diego and the STRIVE program, which provide job training to the "jobless, directionless and frequently hopeless," as Sundance describes it.

STRIVE founder Robert Carmona talked to POLITICO about the difficulty of making a series about jobs in a presidential year, saying the series hopes to "bring attention to workforce development, which has really gotten short shrift."

"The stalemate in Washington is further impacting our ability to get the resources that we need to do the work," said Carmona. "Whether you're on the right or left side, we still have people in our own family that are unemployed and I think that the stalemate is such that it has not allowed the current administration to execute on those things that could possibly impact that."

Carmona thinks that "Get to Work" avoids partisanship by "approaching it from the human interest angle."

"People have this view of the unemployed now which, frankly, I think is nuts — which is that the unemployed are to be blamed for being unemployed," said Carmona. "This particular docu-series is trying to put a face on the individuals that are struggling."

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