

FEBRUARY 2009

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Myth of Scarcity...

The NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD) has developed a powerful set of tools to assist both job seekers in their search for employment and career development specialists to better help applicants in this search. Each month LWD releases an online report indicating the industries and companies that are hiring. The LWD also reports monthly on real time jobs in demand, the skills required, and the pay scales. Other tools available are provided at <http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/wnpjpin/findjob/findjobindex.html>

Technical Training Project (TTP) Graduates Eight Students



Tylesha Maxey, Franchon Heyward, and Merlin Riley are all smiles at the TTP Graduation Dinner.

The North Jersey Partners-supported training project graduated eight students in December 2008; half secured jobs while the others are continuing their undergraduate education at Essex County College. Currently 20 students are being trained and a second session will begin in August. TTP prepares individuals for careers in a variety of science and technology driven industries such as pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, chemicals, plastics, etc. TTP graduates 50 students per year, but will double that number in 2009. Read more at http://www.northjerseypartners.org/Training_Opportunities.htm.

Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) and One-Stops Breaking New Ground

The Regional WIB One-Stop Consortium is developing a strategic plan to improve the capacity of its members and provide opportunities for region-wide policy and program development. By identifying and communicating the needs of regional businesses to educators, resource providers, and job-seekers, the Consortium plans to leverage resources, establish best practices, and become the recognized primary resource for creating and maintaining a coordinated workforce system. For more information about WIBs and One-Stops in our region, please go to <http://www.njsetc.net/boards/names.htm>.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

North Jersey Partners Releases Two Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

Getting career information, job opportunities, and training information into the hands of high school students and young adults is necessary to assist them in preparing for 21st Century careers. To address this, North Jersey Partners is seeking a vendor to develop and implement innovative approaches using a variety of methods to

broadly disseminate career and skill development information to this target audience and their supporters. Proposals for the [Disseminate Career, Occupational, and Skill Development Information](#) RFP are due on Monday, March 9, 2009 and the amount is \$140,000.

Individuals entering or currently in the workforce continually need to develop their skills and competencies to achieve higher paying jobs or to take advantage of job opportunities. Realizing this critical need, North Jersey Partners released the [Training Opportunity](#) RFP to seek an organization(s) to provide training to workers age 16+. Proposals are due on Friday, March 6, 2009. The amount available is \$240,000 for one or more opportunities.

21st Century Customer Service Training

This project team plans to develop a regional system for Customer Service training in the northern New Jersey region. The team has reached out to the community colleges, One-Stops, WIBs, and other designated stakeholders as well as the National Retail Federation Foundation to assist in the design of customized curricula and programs. An employer focus group is scheduled for February 26.

Small Business Development Strategy Focuses on “First Generation Entrepreneurs”

The Center for Urban Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (CUEED) of the Rutgers Business School-Newark has become North Jersey Partners’ Strategy Lead for Small Business Development. This activity focuses on providing training to 50 first generation entrepreneurs.

Four-Year College Connections

The 16 four-year colleges in the North Jersey Partners region offer a variety of training and education options to address overall workforce needs that match the goals of North Jersey Partners. For example, William Paterson University, Rutgers-Newark, Bloomfield College, College of St. Elizabeth, Felician College, and NJIT have developed a number of programs focusing on small business development, entrepreneurship, and professional studies. You can link to these program descriptions through the [North Jersey Partners](#) Web site. If you would like North Jersey Partners to include your programs, please email gale.spak@njit.edu.

NORTH JERSEY PARTNERS HAPPENINGS...

The Honorable Corey Booker, Mayor of Newark, will be the keynote speaker at the [Capitol One Junior Achievement Finance Park Tour and Reception](#) on Wed., Feb. 25 beginning at 4:30 p.m. in Newark.

Come and join the [“Workforce Development Solutions for the Region’s Service Economy”](#) discussion on Thurs., Feb. 26 at the Retail Skills Center at Jersey Gardens.

Harvard Professor Clayton M. Christensen will address [“Creating and Surviving Disruptive Innovation.”](#) on Sat., Feb. 28 at the Enterprise Development Center at NJIT.

Kathy Weaver, Vice President of Programs-Newark Alliance, will be a guest speaker at the *Professional Development Guidance Counselor Workshop* addressing [“Prepare Your Students for the 21st Century Skills”](#) on Fri., May 8 sponsored by NJIT.

JJ Ramberg, MSNBC’s host of “Your Business,” will moderate the Entrepreneur Panel at the [North Jersey Innovates Conference](#) scheduled for Tues., March 10 at the Marriott Hanover in Whippany.

If you would like your event on the North Jersey Partners’ calendar, email denisea13@mac.com. For regularly updated regional events, please link to http://www.northjerseypartners.org/Calendar_of_Events.htm