

A Note of Thanks...

As the WIRED grant comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who contributed and participated in making [North Jersey Partners](#) a success. Your dedication to facilitating change in the public workforce system, to breaking down barriers between organizations, to continuing to build a better skilled and trained workforce, and to demonstrating creativity in meeting business needs were the essential ingredients of [North Jersey Partners](#)' achievements.

The WIRED grant was the catalyst for change in our region. In turn, the vision and mission of [North Jersey Partners](#) will continue to move forward through the [Transportation, Logistics, and Distribution \(TLD\) Talent Network](#), the implementation of the [Creative Community Collaborative Master Plan](#), the [Regional WIB One-Stop Consortium](#), the [Entrepreneurship Resource Guide Series \(English and Spanish\)](#), the [Retail Training Curriculum](#), the [Project Management](#) online courses, the Healthcare Services Medical Billing and Coding Certificate Program, the [Career Resource](#) information, and the [Lifelong Learning Toolkit](#), to name a few.

We have come a long way through [North Jersey Partners](#) and we all know that preparing and building a skilled workforce to meet business needs is an ongoing challenge especially in our current economy. However, through [North Jersey Partners](#), we have developed the framework for change to meet those challenges. Thank you for your time, efforts, and commitment.

Kathy M. Weaver, Vice President of Programs, Newark Alliance

Testimonials to Change...

"The Healthcare Site Administrator funded through the [North Jersey Partners](#) WIRED grant has been a boon to health care facilities and their employees in Morris, Sussex and Warren counties. The Administrator, Robert Spellman, packaged training opportunities from different sources to provide accessible solutions to training needs. His successful efforts to promote distance learning for healthcare workers and trainees introduced a timely, convenient, cost-effective model for training in this growing field. The benefits of the [North Jersey Partners](#)' achievements in this area will endure long after the grant ends."

Morris, Sussex Warren WIB Board Member

"Forcing me to develop my 'elevator' speech and five minute pitches were the best confidence building experiences I've had as a long project developer."

*Nat Coopeman of X-dicator
Participant in Entrepreneurship Course – Advanced
Invention to Venture*

"We didn't want it to end. The program was great; the sharing of ideas, the speakers, the topics, the networking. There were so many resources available to me that I wasn't aware of. It was a terrific experience."

*Lorrie Sanchez, President of Utterly Global
Participant in the Entrepreneurship Pioneers Initiative*

TLD Talent Network Roundtable Focuses on Industry Needs

Where there are jobs, there is opportunity. The [Transportation, Logistics, and Distribution \(TLD\)](#) industry continues to grow in New Jersey employing over 400,000 workers in over 6,000 companies. The June 2010 [TLD Talent Network](#) Roundtable, held at Union County College in Elizabeth, brought together representatives from industry, academics, and the public workforce system to discuss employer needs and employee skills.

“Even in a down economy, we have difficulty finding skilled workers in this industry,” stated Bill Sendel, director of distribution from the Vitamin Shoppe. He added, “We are at a 10 percent growth rate.”

The timing could not be better for the [TLD Talent Network](#) supported by [North Jersey Partners](#) along with the [NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development](#)’s REDI and the [NJ Commission on Higher Education](#)’s Innovative Partnership Institutes programs.

Senior Recruiter, Nate Miller from A Duie Pyle, explained, “Less people are getting into the industry. It’s hard work. You have to get your hands dirty, but there is also a great deal of opportunity.”

Not only did the over 100 participants in the program listen to industry needs, they also heard solutions. Regional Human Resource Manager, Brian Jenkins from FedEx Freight, explained, “We need to create an interest in the TLD industry in the colleges. There is a career ladder and opportunity for growth in this industry. General Manager, Pete Reno from Dr. Leonards Healthcare, added, “Through apprenticeships, observation, and hands-on experience, individuals can see for themselves the opportunities in this industry.”

The [TLD Talent Network](#) sees just that - great opportunities in a dynamic industry that is critical to the economic growth and development in northern New Jersey. For further information on the [TLD Talent Network](#), contact Dan Monaco, regional director, at (646) 918-4690 or dmonaco@newark-alliance.org or visit the [TLD Talent Network](#) micro site.

In addition, online courses for [TLD Project Management](#), [TLD Leadership](#), [TLD Owner-Operator Level 1](#) and [Owner-Operator Level 2](#) can be found on the [North Jersey Partners](#) web site.

WIB One-Stop Consortium Unveils Regional Business Model

One of the major success stories of [North Jersey Partners](#) is the coming together of the public workforce system in northern New Jersey. The eight-county region of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Union, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren has developed a [Regional Business Model](#) that has the potential to be implemented statewide. The model was unveiled in late June in Paterson, NJ with representation from each county.

Deputy Commissioner, Richard E. Constable III of the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, kicked off the conference by stating, “Our challenge in the public workforce system is to think outside the box when it comes to funding our programs, become more regionally focused, and to develop that single point of contact for business. We have to be entrepreneurial in our efforts and let everyone know that New Jersey is open for business.”

The purpose of the Consortium is to be just that as Tammy Molinelli, executive director of the Bergen County WIB and chair of the Consortium, explained, “We are one of the biggest success stories of the WIRED grant because we are still together. Through our Business Outreach Plan, we are encouraging resource building, understanding the resources available to us, and showing our commitment to the private sector.

This plan was well received by the conference participants and all agreed to support this effort. Natalie Provenzale, One-Stop operator from Passaic County, expressed the sentiment of the Consortium best, “Our ultimate goal is to get our clients to be economically self-sufficient. This plan will assist us in getting there together by the three C’s – collaboration, coordination, and computerization.”

For more information about the Consortium, contact Tammy Molinelli at (201) 343-8830 ext. 4004 or tammol@bergen.org.