

APRIL 2009

The Healthcare Industry: A Growing Sector

Despite unemployment increases for the 14th consecutive month in the Garden State per the [latest report](#) from the [New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development \(LWD\)](#), one industry, Healthcare Services, continues to grow and offer diverse career opportunities. Moreover, it is also a strategic focus of [North Jersey Partners](#).

The Union County Workforce Investment Board (WIB), in conjunction with the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, recognized the importance of this sector by sponsoring a *Healthcare Employer Engagement Forum* in April 2009 at Kean University. The forum focused on discussing ways to better prepare workers for job opportunities in the Healthcare Services field.

The attendees were high level and human resource managers who could address the issues of needed skills, hiring trends, and employment opportunities. In addition to the open dialogue to solicit information to meet the needs of the industry, the forum provided healthcare professionals with information regarding available resources to increase the competency, efficiency, and effectiveness of their current workforce.

In addition to this forum, the Healthcare Services Site Coordinators, Kenneth Christensen and Robert Spellman, continue to open new doors for developing and training healthcare workers. To date, 10 prospective employer pipelines as well as 10 New Jersey Customized Training clients have been identified; and employers are interested in training over 200 incumbent healthcare workers.

[North Jersey Partners](#) continues to support these efforts as the identification, training, and development of a qualified, competitive workforce remains our top priority. In addition, North Jersey Partners' Life Long Learning Initiative is connecting with Healthcare Services as well. The Life Long Learning Toolkit, currently under development, will include guidance and tips from a leading northern New Jersey hospital's vice president of human resources.

Retail Team Moves Ahead with a "Careers in Retail" Program

The [North Jersey Partners Retail Employer Advisory Council](#) with support from the regions' community colleges expects to receive proposals for its "Overview of Careers in Retail" course as well as a Train-the-Trainer Workshop on April 30. The project deliverables include a student handout, instructor guide, and training session for regional instructors. Anticipated promotion and rollout of the course and workshop are slated for September 2009.

\$380,000 Awarded in Grants for Talent Development

North Jersey Partners awarded The Writing Company and William Paterson University a total of \$380,000 in grants to further the development of talent in northern New Jersey.

The Writing Company, located in Newark, will receive \$140,000 to disseminate career, occupational and skill development information to students 16+ and young adults. This project will increase the targeted audience's knowledge of the skills and requirements necessary to succeed in a variety of careers and occupations.

[William Paterson University](#) was awarded \$240,000 to provide training to 200 individuals in three of North Jersey Partners' targeted sectors: Transportation, Logistics, and Distribution; Healthcare and Life Sciences; and Entertainment, Arts, and Retail. This training program is comprised of seven career tracks, 10 certificate programs, and 18 individual courses designed to develop skills and competencies needed to obtain jobs or upgrade skills of incumbent workers.

Strategically Unique – The Regional WIB One-Stop Consortium

The [North Jersey Partners Regional WIB One-Stop Consortium](#) moved another step closer in developing its new ways of doing business by approving its [Strategic Business Plan](#). The plan formalizes operations, policy, planning, advocacy and finance as well as establishes a uniform reporting system to measure achievable goals.

The North Jersey Partners eight-county Consortium plans to work collaboratively to build intelligence, capital, and creativity to develop and create more jobs, build stronger relationships with business, and streamline programs and services. Executive Director, Bergen County WIB, Tammy Molinelli stated, "This effort is a solid strategic way to look at our intellectual capacity as well as to help us to build credibility as an effective system that meets the needs of employers and job seekers while developing talent for 21st Century careers in partnership with educational institutions in the region."

North Jersey Partners Happenings...

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 Friday, May 8 sponsored by NJIT. The North Jersey Partners Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Initiative will be discussed as well since the professionals sponsoring the Workshop are implementing the STEM project.

If you would like your event on the North Jersey Partners' calendar, email denisea13@mac.com. For regularly updated regional events, please link to [North Jersey Partners Calendar of Events](#)



Training Session I of "Build Your Financial Model and Develop Your Cash Management Skills" held at New Jersey Institute of Technology and sponsored by North Jersey Partners.