

Workforce Development Update – January 2009
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

HOT NEWS!

Grant News

ACLS is convening an interagency policy group from February through June through a \$25K grant from the Nellie Mae Foundation. Participants will identify and propose strategies for overcoming institutional barriers to successful transitions of ABE students to college. Partners include MA Department of Higher Education, MA Office of Community Colleges, and Commonwealth Corporation, Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development and Department of Transitional Assistance.

Secretary Bump Announces Funding For Ex-Offender Re-Entry Partnership

Wednesday, December 24th, 2008---Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Suzanne M. Bump announced that the Patrick Administration has awarded funding to several regional partnerships serving ex-offenders in education, training, employment, and support services. The regional partnerships that received funds help ex-offenders achieve successful re-entry into communities providing both preventative public safety measures and an economic boost to the regions. Regions selected for the grants include: Boston, \$600,000; Hampden, \$600,000; Central (Worcester/Framingham), \$700,000; Bristol County (New Bedford/Fall River), \$700,000. Grant funding provided to the local Workforce Investment Boards in the four regions will support projects designed and implemented by a collaboration of workforce development, criminal justice, and community partners.

Secretary Bump Announces Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund Grants to Aid Healthcare, Early Childhood, and Utilities Sectors – January 2009

Suzanne M. Bump, Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development announced several grants from the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund (WCTF). “This initiative has focused on several critical industry sectors, and was designed to assist a broad range of residents,” said Secretary Bump. The Secretary said that programs are aimed at older workers, low-wage workers, low-income individuals, disabled citizens, vulnerable youth, incumbent workers and the unemployed. She added: “Our goal is to help these populations gain access to employment, education, and the skills necessary to move forward along a career path leading to economic self-sufficiency.

A \$50,000 grant was awarded to **Northeastern University with Cambridge Health Alliance** as the employer and partners include the Massachusetts Nursing Association and the Massachusetts Laborer’s District Council Local 381. These organizations are working together in the healthcare sector in areas of emergency, geriatric and psychiatric medicine. This project will provide 155 participants with specialty nursing certificates, a College Readiness Certificate program, and basic education to entry level workers who need to build toward taking college-level prerequisite courses.

The \$499,991 grant was awarded to the **Building & Construction Trades Council** focuses on the construction sector with an emphasis on apprenticeship preparedness for a variety of trades and includes 420 participants. The employer partners are Walsh Bros, Inc., William Berry & Son, Suffolk Construction, and other partners include, the Women in the Building Trades, Massachusetts AFL-CIO, the Boston Mayor’s Office of Jobs & Community Services, Building Trades Training Directors Association, The Construction Institute, Boston CareerLink Career Center, and The Work Place Career Center. The 21st Century Building Trades Apprenticeship Preparedness Program’s key feature is the pre-employment program designed to provide basic

adult education, occupational training, and career coaching. This initiative delivers a direct step for participants to enter into a career path in the building and construction trades through post secondary joint labor-management apprenticeship training programs, where a system of classroom and on-the-job training enables workers to obtain industry-recognized credentials, family sustaining wages and benefits, valuable skills that are transferable, and economic security, while at the same time helping to meet the demand for a skilled construction workforce in the Greater Metro Boston Region.

A grant of \$475,000 was awarded to the **Utility Workers Union of America Local No. 369** focusing on the utilities sector in Metro Boston and the Southeast. The High Road Energy Project will address the current and projected shortage of skilled utility workers in the energy industry through two tracks: expanding the Electric Power Utility Technology Program and creating the Utility Laborer Training which will establish a new entry level position for all participating employers. The employers are NSTAR Electric and Gas Company, ElecComm Corporation, CCS Utility Environmental, Underground Utility Construction, Inc., Utility Resource Solutions, and other partners include the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

The **Central MA YWCA** received a grant of \$343,905 to assist 100 teachers in their early childhood program. Providers of early education and care in the Worcester area employ more than 1,000 full and part time teachers who daily care for children in the important early years of life. The goal of this workforce development program is to create a pool of qualified employees within the industry and among current high school students attracted to the industry who are matriculating toward associate and bachelor degrees in early childhood education and related fields. The employers are the YWCA of Central MA, Guild of St. Agnes, Worcester Comprehensive Child Care Services, and Rainbow Child Development Center. Other partners include - Edward Street Child Services, Worcester Community Action Council, Colleges of Worcester Consortium, Inc., Quinsigamond Community College, Becker College, and Worcester State College.

The \$474,634 for the **1199 Service Employees International Union Training and Upgrade Fund** will help 35 people in the healthcare sector seeking Respiratory Therapist's Associates Degrees in the Metro Boston region. This project has a comprehensive plan to address labor shortages amongst all partners 1199SEIU TUF, Boston Medical Center, Quincy Medical Center, Radius Specialty, 1199SEIU, AFSCME L. 1489, Boston PIC, and the South Coastal Workforce Initiative Board, while at the same time creating a program that assists lesser-skilled healthcare workers obtain a post-secondary credential in Respiratory Therapy. The partnership has a strong model of a labor-management workforce development initiative. The employers are Boston Medical Center, Radius Specialty, Quincy Medical Center, and Massasoit Community College.

Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board

MA WIB ABE-ESOL Subcommittee

The ABE/ESOL Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, January 27 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Commonwealth Corporation to be updated on plans to implement recommendations approved by the MA Workforce Investment Board in 2008.

MA WIB Performance Measures Subcommittee

Rebekah Lashman of Commonwealth Corporation presented the draft report of the Performance Measures Subcommittee at the full meeting of the MA WIB on December 10, 2008. Input was solicited from members of the Board; the full report will be presented to the Board by June 30th.

Events

The annual breakfast of **Jobs for the Future** entitled “Making a Difference: New Ideas at Work across the Commonwealth”, will take place on Thursday, January 15, 2009 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel from 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray is the keynote speaker. Juan Vega, Executive Director of El Centro Latino de Chelsea is a panelist.

Upcoming Conferences

READY OR NOT: Global Challenges, College Learning, and America’s Promise, the 2009 annual conference of the American Association of Colleges & Universities will be held in Seattle, WA from January 21 – 24, 2009. For more info, go to www.aacu.org/meetings/annualmeeting/index.cfm

Careers Conference 2009, January 26-28: Madison, WI; hosted by the Center on Education and Work, University of Wisconsin at Madison. For more information, go to <http://www.cew.wisc.edu/CareersConf/default.aspx>

Sharing Skills – Building Connections: Annual Commonwealth Workforce Coalition (CWC) conference: March 11, 2009 at the DCU Center in Worcester.

Good Jobs, Green Jobs 2009 Conference – Feb. 4 – 9, 2009 at the Marriott Wardman Hotel in Washington DC. For more info, go to <http://greenjobsconference.org>

National Career Development Association Global Conference, June 30 – July 3, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency at Union Square, St. Louis, Missouri. For info, go to www.ncda.org

Research Organizations

Public/Private Ventures Celebrates Its 30th Anniversary

Since 1978, P/PV has been working to improve the programs and policies that impact low-income communities. Click [here](#) to view a video commemorating these efforts; additional clips can be found under [Innovation](#), [Research](#) and [Action](#) at www.ppv.org.

On December 3, CNN.com published an editorial by Sheila Maguire, vice president for labor market initiatives at P/PV, titled "Jobs Going Begging in Some Fields." She notes that even during the current economic downturn, certain industries lack qualified workers; Maguire urges Congress and the next presidential administration to invest in training for low-skilled workers to meet the demand in these industries and help spur economic growth. Maguire highlights the findings of *Targeting Industries, Training Workers and Improving Opportunities*, which documents the encouraging results of P/PV's *Sectoral Employment Initiative*. To read the full editorial, click [here](#).

JFF Newswire – Jobs for the Future disseminates information on a variety of publications related to “next steps for students” (For info, go to www.jff.org and click on “November Newswire”)

Better Together: Realigning Pre-College Skills Development Programs
Flexible Learning Options for Students
Learning and Working: Year One of the Jobs to Careers Initiative
Transforming Education in New England
An Agenda for the Obama Administration and the 111th Congress

Materials/Curriculum Tools

Commonwealth Corporation provides access to a youth-driven, youth directed public information piece featuring young people sharing their personal experiences and wisdom on dropping out of school. A video, guide, and handouts are included. Go to www.commcorp.org for information located right on their home page.

The Career Development Toolkit is a new product launched by The Skills Library and developed by Jennifer Leonard. Jennifer had been a consultant with ESE's Connecting Activities unit for many years, and is experienced working with programs that serve youth. A particular highlight of this toolkit is the information it provides on industry sectors in Massachusetts, including health care, the arts, building trades, hospitality, and entrepreneurship. Also featured is information on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers. (Electronic copy is available to schools and colleges for FREE; a print copy is \$45. Accompanying workshops can be arranged for a fee. For information, go to <http://skillslibrary.com/careers>.

SABES

Contact your **SABES Workforce Coordinator** for information on SABES WFD activities. Laurie Sheridan is the statewide SABES Workforce Coordinator; Contact her at 617-482-9485 or lsheridan@worlded.org. Go to www.sabes.org and scan the calendar for workforce related sessions. SABES Workforce Development Specialists include Dori McCormack at SABES West; Cathy Gannon at Central SABES, Kathleen Howell at SABES SE, Patricia Pelletier at SABES NE, and John Zhang at the ALRI.

For more information, contact Andrea Perrault, ACLS Workforce Development Specialist at 781-338-3852 or e-mail at aperrault@doe.mass.edu.