

Special points of interest:

- *TANF Work Supports Approved*
- *WIB Lead in Pharmaceutical Grant*
- *DPN extended through June*

WIB Proposal for TANF Work Support Approved

Jack Patten has announced that a proposal submitted by the WIB in late August for “needs based work supports” for SFY11 was approved by the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

The total funding request of \$150,000 will provide \$50,000 each to Morris, Sussex and Warren counties to continue to provide transportation for Work First New Jersey clients or assist those clients with transportation-related expenses. They will prevent elimination of current programs and allow reinstatement of discontinued programs previously funded by the Post-Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Transportation and Special Initiatives grants. Both grants were reduced last year

and discontinued this year.

The majority of requested funds will be used as a match to the already approved Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) grants. This will allow the State of New Jersey to make use of Federal Transit Administration funds to provide necessary transportation services, including services to each of our counties’ rural areas, which would not be possible without the JARC grants.

TANF clients depend on these programs to get to and from their required work activities. Their elimination would have resulted in a greatly reduced federal participation rate for our tri-county area.

WIB to co-administer Pharmaceutical Grant

The Morris-Sussex-Warren and Greater Raritan WIBs have been designated as the lead WIBs to administer the **NJ Pharmaceutical National Emergency Grant**. The US Department of Labor announced the \$3.6 million grant on September 23 to help as many as 960 pharmaceutical workers who were laid off in northern New Jersey.

The US Department of Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis said this grant will “give these workers the opportunity to find new jobs in expanding sectors of the state’s economy”.

The NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development will provide the unemployed workers with ser-

vices such as basic and occupational skills training and career counseling.

The state agency plans to use the funds to keep pharmaceutical talent in New Jersey and create a “world class bioscience cluster.”

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Disability Program Navigator extended through June 2011

WIB Director Jack Patten reported recently that the Morris-Sussex-Warren WIB was joined by other WIBs in requesting that funding be extended for Disability Program Navigators (DPN). Jack is pleased to announce that the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJ LWD) has agreed to continue the DPN program through June 30, 2011.

Donna Buchanan has been Disability Program Navigator (DPN) for the tri-county area since April 2010 through a grant with NJ LWD. DPNs provide assistance to persons with disabilities through services and information in One-Stops, and to employers to facilitate employment for this target group.



Next WIB
Open Meeting:

January 27

Save the Date!

Donna has identified and continues to identify issues regarding accommodations for persons with disabilities at the One-Stop Career Centers. She has been addressing those issues through education, advocacy and providing appropriate materials and media where needed.

The letter from NJ LWD regarding the extension says, "Recognizing the DPN program's important role in helping clients access and navigate the services of the One Stop Career Centers, additional ARRA funds are being made available by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to continue the DPN program in your local area."

WIB Director appointed to Advisory Committee

On December 8, **WIB Director Jack Patten** was appointed by the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders to serve on the newly-formed **Morris County Economic Development Advisory Committee**. Morris County Freeholders Margaret Nordstrom, John Murphy and Gene Feyl are the initial Committee members and will be joined by the Morris-Sussex-Warren Workforce Investment Board, Morris County Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Corporation, the county's Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce, the County College of Morris and the county's School of Technology.

The Committee will continue the work already started by several of the

freeholders and Morris County Chamber of Commerce President Paul Boudreau, who have been meeting informally with business and corporate executives in the county and listening to their concerns for the past two years.

"It's simply a matter of being proactive," Freeholder Nordstrom said. "During these visits, we discuss such things as job retention and how the freeholders, county government and the chamber can assist their businesses. This advisory committee will now help the freeholders further connect with local business leaders to learn more about their companies and the issues they face, especially in these difficult economic times."

Anne Marie Brown receives Award

Sodexo presents Spirit of Progress award to WIB Member

WIB Member Anne Marie Brown was recently honored with a prestigious award from Sodexo, the leading provider of integrated food and facilities management services in the U.S., Canada and Mexico, at their Management Conference in Orlando, Florida.

The "Spirit of Sodexo" awards are given in recognition of employees who go above and beyond the call of duty to represent Sodexo in the community. The awards have three levels (Regional, Health Care in the USA, All of North America) and three categories (Service Spirit, Team Spirit, Spirit of Progress). One of only six final winners, and chosen from a field of 1,600 nominations, Anne Marie won the *Spirit of Progress* award for All of North America.

The Morris Sussex Warren Workforce Investment Board is an equal opportunity employer with equal opportunity programs.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

According to George Chavel, President and CEO of Sodexo North America, "Anne Marie Brown, a general manager (at the Morris View Healthcare Center), works with community organizations like The Arc and Employment Horizons to provide job opportunities for persons with disabilities. Thanks to her efforts, Sodexo hired 10 new employees to work in our dietary and laundry departments and the company was recognized by the community specifically for her work. In fact, the New Jersey state legislature created a 'Sodexo Day' proclamation based solely on Anne Marie's work with the disabled."

"It took me a while to really understand that I could win an award for doing something that is really part of my job. I hope that, in the near future, partnering with and hiring persons with disabilities will become as common as hiring someone with blue or brown eyes."

- Anne Marie Brown

David Hollowell's Work to be Exhibited

WIB Chair David Hollowell has long been known as a respected artist. As part of the observance of Black History Month, a large display of David's work will be exhibited at the Morristown Neighborhood House on February 24 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

*Morristown Neighborhood House
12 Flagler Street, Morristown
(973) 538-1229*

New WIB Members

The WIB is pleased to welcome two new members to the Board. **Anne Marie Brown** is General Manager, Multi-Service for Sodexo Senior Services, located at the Morris View Healthcare Center in Morris Plains. **Ann Marie Flake** is Team Leader, Career Services for St. Clare's Health System located in Denville.

Tenth Annual Job Fair draws 700 jobseekers 80 companies and nonprofits also in attendance

The Franklin One-Stop Career Center held their 10th Annual Fall Job Fair in October. Nearly 700 jobseekers and 80 companies and non-profit organizations were in attendance. On-site interviews were conducted at the fair and several people left with job offers.

WIB Member Bill Weightman said this was the One-Stop office's largest job fair ever. "We do this for the citizens of Sussex County," he said.

In addition to local businesses and nonprofits such as Mountain Creek and Project Self-Sufficiency, potential employers also came from neighboring colleges, pharmaceutical companies, temp agencies, broadcast companies, New York and Pennsylvania.

"Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity."

- Seneca

Have a Submission?

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Warren County Hall of Fame ETS Counselor one of 17 Finalists

The Warren County Community College Foundation is establishing a "Warren County Hall of Fame" to honor individuals from a diverse range of fields and professions who have made significant contributions to Warren County and beyond. The dedication ceremony for the Hall of Fame, which will be set up at Warren County Community College, is scheduled for the spring of 2011.

WIB Member Olga Burns, Director of Morris-Sussex-Warren Employment & Training Services (MSW ETS), is pleased to report that Madeleine Laczhazy was among 17 finalists for Hall of Fame recognition. Ms. Laczhazy is a Supervising Employment Counselor in Phillipsburg, and has been with MSW ETS for 25 years. Other finalists included former County Clerk Terrance Lee, former Governor Robert B. Meyner (deceased) and former Speaker of the NJ Assembly Garabed "Chuck" Haytaian.

Employment & Training Links

www.nextsteps.org

Next Steps

"A full featured employment, career development and job finding resource for youth, including career planning, job seeking, career maintenance and many other resources."