

REB Connections

NEWS FROM THE METRO NORTH REGIONAL
EMPLOYMENT BOARD, CAMBRIDGE, MA

FALL 2010

Metro North REB Awarded High Performing WIB Status

The Massachusetts Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, Joanne Goldstein, recently awarded the status of High Performing Workforce Investment Board (WIB) to the Metro North REB on behalf of the state. This designation is given to WIBs that meet and sustain rigorous performance standards, and that have a demonstrated commitment to achieving the strategic workforce goals outlined by the Patrick Administration. These high-level goals include building workforce capacity, closing the skills gap, and developing education, training, and employment infrastructure to increase opportunities for youth. As part of the award, the REB will receive a \$100,000 grant which it will use to support objectives in its priority industries of healthcare and the professional/technical/services sector.

ESOL Program for Former Ames Workers Now Underway



Classes have begun for over twenty former employees of the Ames Safety Envelope Company in Somerville, who are participating in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program at the Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences (SCALE). This training is one component of a suite of education, training, and job counseling services that is currently being offered to 150 former Ames workers, thanks to a grant that was recently awarded to the REB by the Rapid Response Team of the Department of Workforce Development. In addition to ESOL training, the REB has allocated a large portion of the award for a wide range of direct services to be provided by the Metro North Career Centers. These services include outreach and recruitment, case management, job search workshops, and job placement services. The ultimate goal of these efforts is to help the former Ames workers, many of whom were long-term employees of the company, to successfully compete into today's rapidly evolving job market.

Photo by Andrew Firestone

Welcome New REB Members!

The REB is pleased to announce the appointment of the following individuals to its Board:

- ◆ Antonio de la Serna, Senior Member of the Technical Staff, Draper Laboratory
- ◆ Michael J. Spinale, Director of Human Resources & Training, Triumvirate Environmental
- ◆ Joanne J. Ouillette, Director, Corporate Business Development, Lockheed Martin Corporation

New Data on Service Levels for FY10

In FY10, the Metro North Career Centers served over 23,000 customers. The Metro North communities with the highest number of customers include: Woburn, Cambridge, Somerville, Malden, Everett, Medford, Chelsea and Revere. The breakdown by city/town is as follows:

Service by Community of Residence	
Metro North Career Centers*	
July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010	
Community	Customers Served
Arlington	894
Belmont	328
Burlington	641
Cambridge	1,518
Chelsea	1,127
Everett	1,299
Malden	1,375
Medford	1,285
Melrose	471
North Reading	268
Reading	512
Revere	1,088
Somerville	1,392
Stoneham	489
Wakefield	756
Watertown	320
Wilmington	557
Winchester	334
Winthrop	191
Woburn	1,713
Metro North Residents	16,558
Non-Metro North Residents	6,445
Total Customers Served	23,003
* The Career Place, Woburn, and Career Source, Cambridge and Everett	

REB Sets Healthcare Skills Gap Plan in Motion

The REB has recently initiated its comprehensive plan to address the growing need for skilled healthcare workers in the Metro North region. With funding from the Commonwealth Corporation, the REB has partnered with Lahey Clinic, Hallmark Health, and Middlesex Community College (MCC) to sponsor the enrollment of local unemployed and incumbent workers in a training program to prepare them for careers as Certified Phlebotomists. The fifteen individuals enrolled in the program are engaged in a combination of classroom education and on-the-job training as they prepare to take the state exam. Each participant will receive support services from the Metro North Career Centers to help ensure success in their new careers. The REB, Lahey Clinic, Hallmark Health, and MCC are also working closely to develop the curriculum for a Clinical Laboratory Assistant Certificate Program. In addition, in August the REB convened the first meeting of the Metro North Healthcare Partnership, a consortium of healthcare institutions, community colleges, and career centers in the Metro North region. The Partnership is in the process of assessing the workforce-related needs, priorities and challenges in the healthcare sector, as well as working to identify resources that will help the Partnership to develop sustainable workforce solutions for the entire Metro North region.

Program Helps 325 Local Youth Secure Summer Jobs

This past summer, the Metro North communities of Cambridge, Chelsea, and Malden provided meaningful employment to 325 local at-risk youth. The REB was responsible for administering the funds, which were provided by the Commonwealth Corporation as part of the successful statewide YouthWorks program. The youth participants received guidance to help ensure that the benefits of their experiences extended beyond their paychecks, through having the opportunities to develop essential job skills and explore educational and career paths. The REB has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from employers, as many have enjoyed having motivated workers who were eager to learn and develop skills that will prepare them for success long into the future.

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