

## Special points of interest:

- *New Jersey On-the-Job Training Manual*
- *WIB Participating in New Jersey's Talent Networks*
- *Area Unemployment Rates*

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## New Jersey On-the-Job Training Manual MSW WIB Partners with two other NJ WIBs

Along with representatives of the Cumberland/Salem and Passaic County WIBs, WIB Director **Jack Patten** recently helped to prepare the *New Jersey On-the-Job Training Manual: A Guide for the Use of The State of New Jersey OJT Program Funding*. The three WIBs were chosen to compile the manual because of their highly developed and successful On-the-Job (OJT) programs. Joan Strehl, Morris-Sussex-Warren Employment & Training Services OJT Representative, also contributed significantly to the manual.

The manual was developed to assist New Jersey One-Stop Career Center staff to initiate new OJT programs or improve current ones. It aims to promote a level of consistency among OJT program providers while allowing necessary flexibility to reflect local conditions.

The OJT program provides individualized occupational skills training for dislocated workers and low-income adults. It offers a significant incentive for employers to hire unemployed workers and train them in job-specific skills. The program encourages business retention by providing funding to train new employees.

The OJT program generally provides employer reimbursement of up to \$4,000 for each new trainee. Trainees are full-time employees with the same benefits and work conditions as other workers and are retained by the employer at the end of the training period. Historically, OJT reimbursement is based on 50% of the new



worker's salary during the contractual training period.

However, New Jersey has a federal waiver that allows reimbursement of up to 90% under certain conditions. The worker must be certified by the One-Stop Career Center or OJT program agency. Employers must periodically report trainee progress, earnings, and retention information.

The *New Jersey On-the-Job Training Manual* is a valuable resource for WIBs and One-Stops that will increase the number and quality of OJT contracts in New Jersey and benefit businesses and their new highly trained employees.

The Manual will be distributed in early 2012.

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## Skylands Ride Announces New Transportation Services

**W**IB Member **Carol Novrit** has announced that Sussex County residents can now use public transportation to get to a destination other than New York City. Service to the Netcong transit hub was scheduled to commence in December. From there, passengers can access buses and trains to go anywhere. They can also now travel to Sussex County from locations other than New York.

A national transportation company comprehensively analyzed the current public routes, and the result was the creation of *Skylands Connect* and *Skylands Request*, the new names for the services of Skylands Ride.

The Loop service, *Skylands Connect*, runs from Sussex south down Route 23 through Wantage, Hamburg, and Franklin, onto 517 through Ogdensburg and Sparta, and up Sparta Avenue to Andover and Newton. This adds the Carlton Village section of Hardyston and the YMCA as new service areas.

Due to the elimination of a very low ridership area from Sussex to Newton



along Route 565, this region will be serviced through the *Skylands Request* para-transit buses. Passengers will call in advance to book a trip from this demand response service.

The changes allow Skylands Ride to provide more frequent service throughout the day to areas with the highest ridership.

Plans are being made to have Skylands Ride services available on Google Transit in the future. This will allow interested commuters to easily access the schedule and pre-plan their transportation.

The changes in service, routes, schedules and fares have been instituted in order to increase ridership and service to the residents of Sussex County, while responding to decreases in funding from federal, state and local sources.



Next WIB  
Open Meeting:

January 26

*Save the Date!*

## VA Visits Franklin One-Stop Career Center

**A** Veterans' Health Fair was held at the Franklin One-Stop Career Center on October 7.



Matt DeMario at the Franklin One-Stop Career Center

John Lehnert, former Veterans' Employment staffer for the Sussex One-Stops, and WIB Member **Bill Weightman**

worked with the Veteran's Administration to offer the roughly 30 vets who attended updates on benefits, a quick overview of their health, and flu

shots. The veterans present ranged from World War II to those presently deployed.

The One-Stop in Franklin is located in a building named after former State Senator Robert E. Littell, a Marine, and is also the recruitment site of the National Guard.

Matt DeMario, a Korean-era vet, is currently employed at the Newton One-Stop as a receptionist, and is sometimes utilized in job development efforts for Sussex County jobseekers. Matt played in the Air Force Band during his tenure in the service, and later played with Frank Sinatra and other popular singers and bands of the 1950s and 1960s.

# New Jersey's Talent Networks

## MSW WIB Participating in Initiative

The Morris-Sussex-Warren WIB is participating in Talent Networks, an initiative of the New Jersey Department of Labor/Workforce Development (LWD). Since more than half of New Jersey workers are employed in six industries that pay more than two-thirds of wages paid in the state, Talent Networks were created to assist employers searching for qualified candidates by leveraging their experience, understanding of the ever-changing job market, and their access to New Jersey's training providers and educational leaders.

The goal of Talent Networks is to connect businesses in the six key industries with educational institutions, workforce development agencies, government and community groups to identify the skills and training New Jersey employers require in prospective employees to remain competitive in the global market. By being trained in those skills, students and jobseekers will be able to find long-term jobs in New Jersey and help to boost the state's economy.

Morris-Sussex-Warren WIB is participating in the following Talent Networks:

### ADVANCED MANUFACTURING (New Jersey Institute of Technology)



These smaller, leaner, high-tech, specialty manufacturers are areas primed for growth if properly nurtured and provided with the uniquely skilled workforce that suits their needs.

### LIFE SCIENCES (BioNJ)



Biotechnology, life-science firms, developing medical devices often include high paying, talent-driven jobs that require specialized skills. This industry is just beginning to show its long-term promise.

### FINANCIAL SERVICES (Newark Alliance)



From banks and mortgage firms to CPAs and programming operations, financial services are the backbone that supports numerous ancillary industries.

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.

## WIB Word Submissions

We are seeking submissions from WIB members for future issues. Please send your article to:

Sallie Sullivan  
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## WIB Seeks Business Members

*Private Sector Targeted for Membership*

The Workforce Investment Board is seeking new business members from Morris, Sussex or Warren Counties to advise the WIB on labor market and economic development issues.

The Board meets three times per year, on the last Thursday of January, May and September.

Future WIB meetings will be held in tri-county area locations, so that a meeting will be held in each county by year's end. In addition, plans are underway to offer the option in the near future of "calling in" to the meeting via conference call.

There is no fiduciary responsibility, and there are no fundraising appeals. WIB membership is an excellent opportunity to help shape area workforce development and economic development.

*"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."*

- Sir Winston  
Churchill

### New WIB Member

The WIB is pleased to welcome new member **Frank Pinto** to the Board. Frank is the Director of the Morris County Department of Human Services, and replaces Mary Jo Buchanan, who has assumed the role of Morris County Assistant Administrator.

### Area Unemployment Rates

The most recent unemployment rates for New Jersey and the tri-county area are:

Area	Rate
Morris County	6.5 %
Sussex County	8.2 %
Warren County	7.6 %
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>9.1 %</b>



### WIB Officers and Staff

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