

A Quarterly Newsletter by the GRWDB

Message from the Director

This fall, staff debuted a new presentation on the mission and work of the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board (GRWDB). So far, it has been shared it at meetings of the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce, Healthier Somerset, and Somerset County Governing Officials. Our purpose is to give current and potential partners a succinct overview of the work of the GRWDB, and how that work can support the missions of other community groups. The response has been positive, and we welcome opportunities to present it around the two counties we serve. To see and hear the presentation, just let us know.

The presentation was created by Aubrey Flanagan, our business services specialist. On Nov. 11, Aubrey moved over to Raritan Valley Community College's (RVCC) Workforce Training Center, where she is manager of corporate and professional development. In her new role, Aubrey will still be involved with the GRWDB, serving on several board committees. This will only help to strengthen the board's mission and vision, which also is getting a boost with the addition of Jeanne Cassano, in a new job developer role. Jeanne, a long-time Hunterdon County resident, started on Nov. 12 and will be working with state and local partners, including RVCC, to help people in the system know about and get the many different positions harvested by our state business representatives. Jeanne is spending her first several weeks meeting with different team members in the system, and sitting in on different workshops. This position aligns with everything we do -- to support a robust, seamless workforce system in Hunterdon and Somerset counties.



Paul Szella

At a Community Outreach event in Franklin, Somerset, in October.



Looking Toward 2020

In January, the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board, working in collaboration with state, county and private partners, will present three different programs aimed at educating community members about workforce-related services and how they can be utilized.

On Jan. 3, the State Business
Representatives are bringing together
various state programs in a brand-new
Employer Resource and Information Event at
75 Veterans Memorial Drive in Somerville.

Then on Jan. 15, the One Stop will host a presentation at 27 Warren St. in Somerville on the services of the New Jersey Reentry Corp.

And on Jan. 22, the Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County, at the PeopleCare Center in Bridgewater, is co-presenting a workshop. "New Year, New Job," focused on work-related services available to those in the system's literacy programs.

Information on these and other events can be found on the Calendar tab of www.thegrwdb.org.

In the Community





New Jersey Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo traveled to Hunterdon County Vocational School in Raritan Township on Nov. 13 to talk with local business owners about apprenticeship programs. Part of a Meet the Trades event at the school, Asaro-Angelo had the opportunity to get direct feedback about the state's workforce development efforts.

News from our Partners

Every month, the partners in the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board system offer free workshops aimed at helping community members sharpen their job-hunting skills and learn about new career opportunities.

In December, the Jersey Job Club schedule includes "The Right Career for You," "Path to Employment:

Starting Your Job Search," Top Notch Resumes," Acing the Job Interview" and "Jersey Job Club Entrepreneurship." These workshops are offered in the One Stop Career Center at 75 Veterans Memorial Drive in Somerville. Space is limited and registration is required.

Additional workshops are also offered by the Greater Raritan One Stop Career Services in Somerville as well as at libraries around the region. These are presented by Jan Goodman, community outreach specialist for the Greater Raritan One Stop Career Services. On tap in the coming months weeks and months are:

Dec. 9: The Multi-Generational Workplace

Dec. 18: Creating a Dynamic Job Portfolio

Jan. 22: Mastering the Interview

Details on these workshops can be found on the Calendar tab of www.thegrwdb.org. Workforce-related events and workshops from other partners also may be found on the constantly-updated calendar.



Check out NJDLWD's Office of Research and Information's latest Labor Market Information Update for October 2019.

Officials from Maher & Maher, an IMPAQ Company, traveled from Maryland to Raritan Valley Community College in early November to see how IMPAQ's \$20,000 grant, awarded this winter to the GRWDB, was used to train 10 students in Welding. The students received an AWS certificate upon completion of the program. The grantors talked with instructors and students about how this opportunity is putting them on a sustainable career pathway, a key goal of the GRWDB. The three-hour discussion led to some interesting insights, and ideas for possible future collaboration.

Featured Presentations

The GRWDB and its committees seek to understand and use data to build strategies and programs that help all partners support the needs of employers and jobseekers in Hunterdon and Somerset counties. This data is shared and reviewed at all board and committee meetings. At our September board meeting, Michael Valeriano, analyst, Bureau of Labor Market Information, presented a Greater Raritan LMI Data Overview. View it here.

As we go into 2020, these data sets will continue to be shared with all partners and committee members, and posted on our website for all to see and use.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 12
GRWDB Literacy Committee

January 3
Somerset County Employer Resource
& Information Event

January 15
One Stop Partners presentation with New Jersey
Reentry Corp.

January 16
GRWDB Meeting

January 22 GRWDB Literacy Committee

January 22 "New Year, New Job" presented with Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County

January 27
GRWDB One Stop Committee

February 4
GRWDB Disabilities Committee

In the Know: Workforce Development Articles and Reports

The Geography of Jobs: NYC Metropolitan Region Economic Snapshot, Second Edition:

This Research Release from the New York City Department of Planning shows how many of the region's planning challenges are interconnected, and how New York City's future is intertwined with the future of the larger metropolitan region.

The Dangers Of Mistaking Diversity For Inclusion In The Workplace: This is the first in a thoughtful series by Dana Brownelee, author and project manager evangelist.

How Women Can Help Fill the Oil and Gas Industry's Talent Gap: This McKinsey & Co. report argues that leaders in this industry should pay attention to how female leaders often outperform their peers.

What Recovery: Life on the Edge: Even with the strongest labor market in half a century, getting work after losing it can still be a challenge, according to New York Times journalist Patricia Cohen.

The Changing Face of Our Workforce: This Washington Post story shows how for the first time, most new working-age hires in the U.S. are people of color.





Hunterdon County Job Fair

The 2019 Hunterdon County Job Fair conducted on Sept. 25 at the county complex in Raritan Township drew 257 job seekers who had the opportunity to meet more than 40 employers looking to fill a variety of positions. As of early November, six people have been employed as a result of the event and dozens of others are in the interview process.

The job fair was sponsored by the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board, the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce.

Several of the vendors already use the recruitment services offered by State Business Representatives Amanda Modale and Jessica Johannesen; for others, it was an opportunity to see how state services can help feed their worker pipeline needs.

For more information on job recruitment events, contact Amanda.Modale@dol.nj.gov (908-704-3356) or Jessica.Johannesen@dol.nj.gov (908-575-3239).



OCTOBER 2019 ONE STOP OPERATOR REPORT

Thanks for reading!

Visit www.thegrwdb.org, follow the GRWDB on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, or contact us directly for more information. We are happy to meet with any business, community agency or public body in Hunterdon and Somerset counties to explain how our services work. In 2020, we also will be expanding our office outreach to work directly with jobseekers, too. Contact:

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