

Greater Raritan

Workforce Development Board



A Quarterly Newsletter by the GRWDB

SkillUp Greater Raritan offers free online learning

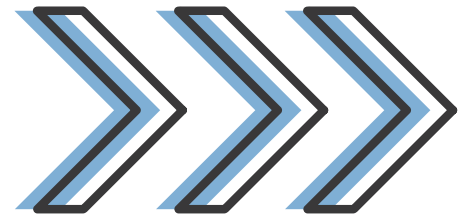
Residents of Hunterdon and Somerset counties have access to thousands of free online learning courses and certificates through SkillUp Greater Raritan, a new initiative of the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board.

In this new service launched on Feb. 10, residents of Hunterdon and Somerset counties can sign up in for SkillUp, which gives participants access to a vast catalog of courses reflecting marketable skills businesses in the region say they want their employees to have. These Skillsoft courses, provided by the Metrix E-Learning System, include IT and software lessons, project management, human resources, banking, retail, hospitality and communication skills. **(See Page 2 for sign-up details.)**

“Any resident of Hunterdon and Somerset counties can sign up for SkillUp Greater Raritan to upgrade their current skills or learn new ones to improve their employment opportunities,” said Violet Kocsis, board chair of the GRWDB and Chief Human Resources Officer for Hunterdon Healthcare System. “Employers in the two counties looking for training opportunities for their employees are also welcomed to work with us as we roll out this tool. We believe this one-year pilot program will enable us to reach residents who never knew about these services, while also expanding the services the board provides.”

More than 130 individuals have signed up for the service since it was launched. These include counselors and agencies whose clients can use the portal, librarians who are going to share it with their patrons, and dozens of individual citizens -- reflecting the range of community members this services aims to serve.

Paul Grzella, Director



Share Your Thoughts: The Future of Work in N.J.



*Are you ready for the jobs of tomorrow?
Does technology in the workplace make you
feel safer?*

*Technology will continue to change the way
we work, the skills we need, and the types of
jobs available - the New Jersey State Future
of Work Task Force needs to hear from you
to understand your concerns about the
impact of technology on the future of work in
the Garden State.*

*The Task Force is requesting your thoughts
and insights in a brief survey about your
concerns regarding technology and how it
may affect your career. All employers,
workers and community members are
invited to participate.*

*Your insights will help shape New Jersey
State policy on how to best address the
workforce and workplace challenges of
tomorrow.*

*Make your voice heard today! Participate
now at <https://www.smarter.nj.gov/fow>.*

Getting started with SkillUp

To sign up for SkillUp Greater Raritan, residents of Hunterdon and Somerset counties go to <http://thegrwdb.mextrixlearning.com>. The link also can be found under the Resources tab of <https://www.thegrwdb.org/> and on the websites for Hunterdon and Somerset counties.

This will take you to the sign-in page; on the page, go to “Click to Sign Up for SkillUp Greater Raritan.” This will take you to the registration page which has several required fields to fill out, including name, email address, zip code, and counselor name. If you are not a participant in a system program, mark “None.” (Users are asked to fill out all fields to help Greater Raritan get a complete picture of who is taking part in the program.)

After completing the form, users click on “register.” New users will be assigned a user name and password, and have instant access to Metrix Learning from anywhere online. A “Getting Started” tutorial will pop up to get them started.

Each user’s My Plan will be preloaded with four courses focusing on workplace skills. On their home page, users are also able to see popular courses in the system, create their own program training plan which they will have six months to complete, and track their progress. Courses also can be added to a plan as well.

Greater Raritan
Workforce Development Board

SkillUp™ Greater Raritan

A free online learning portal for residents of Hunterdon and Somerset counties. Enhance skills and obtain industry recognized credentials by taking online courses in hundreds of subjects.

3 Key Features



Explore Career Pathways



Browse the Catalog



Find Job Openings



Register Today

<http://thegrwdb.mextrixlearning.com/>

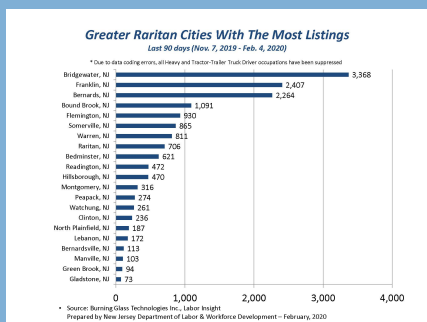
Text ONESTOP to 56512

The Metrix course catalog is large, so users are encouraged to click on “Explore Career Pathways,” which present industry paths with the aligned course programs. Users can also click “Browse the Catalog” to explore skill tracks to help direct their customized training plans and progress. Completion of these courses ends with badges / certificates of completion .

Users also can explore 130 industry certification tracks n

which give them the opportunity to prepare for industry certification exams in a number of areas. Industry exams, which carry a fee, are not included in this program, but users are linked to the appropriate sites for details.

A Help tab takes users to links to more than 20 video tutorials. Links are also available to FAQs, and a support team. The staff of the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board is available to conduct training sessions for all public or private agencies. At 2 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month, beginning March 4, staff will also lead a training session at 75 Veterans Memorial Drive in Somerville. Call 908-541-5790.



Find NJDLWD's Office of Research and Information Labor Market Information reports under the Resources tab of www.thegrwdb.org. Links to other state-produced data sets are available here as well, including reports specific to Hunterdon and Somerset counties.

Your Input Please

The New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission (SETC) announces the release of the Draft New Jersey Combined State Plan for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), 2020 for public comment. The Draft Plan has been created through the collaborative efforts of the SETC, the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development and key partner agencies including the New Jersey Department of Human Services and its Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Public comment must be submitted to the SETC no later than 11:59 pm on Sunday, March 8, 2020. All partners and stakeholders are asked to submit their written comments as soon as possible. While the public comment time period is over on the 8th, feedback regarding the Draft Plan may be provided beyond that period. The Plan is a living document that will, over time, be reviewed and updated as necessary, according to the SETC.

The Draft NJ Combined State Plan for WIOA, 2020 is available on the SETC website at www.njsetc.net and includes the instructions for submitting public comment.

Something to talk about

The March schedule for the Jersey Job Club Workshops meeting at the Greater Raritan One-Stop Career Center, at 75 Veterans Memorial Drive East in Somerville, is available on www.thegrwdb.org.

Special presentations include Apprenticeships at 10 a.m. **March 9**, followed by a group session on Strategy/Planning/Accountability at 1:30 p.m. that afternoon. A group session on Professional Introductions/Networking Practice is set for 9:30 a.m. **March 23**, and a group session for a formal Mock Interview will be conducted at 1:30 p.m. **March 30**. Jersey Job Club workshops are open to anyone who can benefit and are free of charge. Space is limited, so pre-registration is required.

To register, call 908-704-3000 and indicate which event(s) you want to attend.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Somerset County Job Fair will be conducted on Tuesday, May 12, at Somerset Patriots' TD Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater. See www.thegrwdb.org.

Outreach focuses on career opportunities

Hunterdon County job seekers and employers met and mingled at the Frenchtown Borough Library for a One-Stop Career Day on Tuesday, Feb. 11. The Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board, in partnership with the borough, offered residents the

opportunity to meet with a job developer to learn about the many services available to job seekers and employers in Hunterdon County. Mayor Brad Myhre and librarian Kelly Pickering (pictured at right) welcomed Jeanne Cassano, job developer with the



the board, in a new community outreach effort in which workforce board staff is going to different locations in 2020 to speak with interested residents about the career and employment services available in the region. The monthly outreach continued on Feb 25 and is back on **March 24** in Hillsborough Library at 379 South Branch Road. That outreach also will include a presentation on the New Start Career Network for older job seekers. The Board and Franklin Township Library, Somerset County, are collaborating on an **April 21** event, and the Board is reaching out to other communities to plan similar events throughout 2020. For details, call 908-203-6044 or email info@thegrwdb.org.

Perfect Vision 2020: Resources for our area employers

On Jan. 3, the State Business Representatives brought together various state programs in a brand-new Employer Resource and Information Event at 75 Veterans Memorial Drive in Somerville. Some 20 employers representing a range of sectors and sizes, attended, with many staying all day.

On Friday, **March 20**, a second event targeted for Hunterdon County employers, will be conducted at the Greater Raritan One Stop Career Center, 6 Gauntt Place, Flemington, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Focus on Business Success in 2020 with Perfect Vision" will feature different speakers focusing on job-related resources any business owner can use. Speakers have been invited from the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board, Wage & Hour, OSHA, Apprenticeships, WOTC, Federal Bonding,



Attendees listen to a presentation at the Somerville Employer Event.

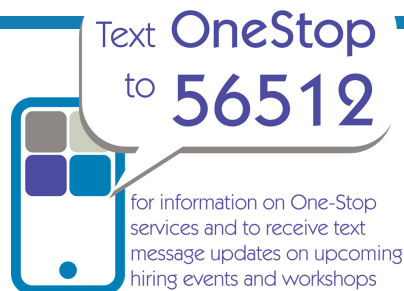
and programs for Veterans, Vocational Rehabilitation, and On-the-Job training.

Attendees can come for one presentation or multiple -- whatever fits their schedules.

Sign up to receive additional information by sending an email to Jessica.Johannesen@dol.nj.gov.

Read the GRWDB Annual Report 2018-2019

The past 12 months were a busy time for the system partners of the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board. The events and accomplishments of the period are reflected in the GRWDB's Annual Report 2018-2019, which can be read on www.thegrwdb.org. This latest Annual Report, as well reports for the past four years, are under the "About" tab, or go to www.thegrwdb.org/about/annual-reports/.



Click here for
**JANUARY 2020
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. Throughout the year, we will continue to expand our office outreach to work directly with job seekers, too. Contact:

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