



WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS WEEK 2010

A TIME TO CELEBRATE

In March, workforce initiatives from across the country will inaugurate the first annual Workforce Solutions Week. This weeklong celebration will bring together workers, employers, public officials, and business, community, and education leaders to honor successful ways for building the nation's frontline workforce. The Week will be held from Monday, March 8 through Sunday, March 14, 2010.

Through events around the country, media coverage, and proclamations by civic leaders, this week will be an opportunity to highlight the successes of individual participants, service providers, employers, funders, and other partners in four national initiatives:

- > The 32 **Breaking Through** community colleges promoting and strengthening efforts to help low-literacy adults prepare for and succeed in occupational and technical degree programs;
 - > The 5 **Connecting Literacy and Work** sites designed to strengthen the connections between adult literacy and workforce development;
 - > The 17 **Jobs to Careers** projects helping frontline health care workers gain the skills and credential opportunities they need to advance their careers, while helping their employers retain a talented workforce and ensure that patients receive high-quality care; and
 - > The 22 regional funding collaboratives in the **National Fund for Workforce Solutions** addressing a critical problem in America today: the crisis in workforce preparedness.
- > **Portland Community College** and **Worksystems, Inc.** are partnered on a foundational skills project aimed at increasing the skills of jobseekers in workplace computers, math, and English. The project is ongoing with student profiles being featured as part of the week. For more, contact Amy Youngflesh at ayoungfl@pcc.edu.
 - > Focusing on healthcare recruitment, the **Regional Center for Workforce Excellence** will host a meet-and-greet, matching job candidates and employers. The event will be held at the PA CareerLink-Erie County location on March 11. For more, contact Marsha Walker at mwalker@nwpawib.org.
 - > On March 11, **The National Network of Sector Partners** and **Insight Center for Community Economic Development** will host "From Jobs to Careers and Credentials: Work-based Learning at the Front Lines of Health Care," a webinar to explore the lessons learned from partnerships of health care employers and job training funds. To register, go to: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/791803353>. For more, contact Jim Torrens at JTorrens@insightccd.org.

SAMPLING OF THE WEEK'S EVENTS:

- > **Durham Technical Community College** will host workshops for students on March 9 and 10 that will highlight new, cutting-edge courses that prepare graduates for the increasingly technical labor market. For more, contact Christine Kelly-Cleese at kleecec@durhamtech.edu.
- > On March 10, **District 1199C: Training & Upgrading Fund**, **Job Opportunity Investment Network**, and the **Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board** will host "Celebrating Progress, Standing Up for Change," a special event on the importance of building learning and career pathways to put Pennsylvanians back to work—featuring renowned economist, Paul Harrington. For more information, contact Susan Thomas at stthomas@1199ctraining.org.

ABOUT JOBS FOR THE FUTURE

National coordinator of Workforce Solutions Week, Jobs for the Future identifies, develops, and promotes new education and workforce strategies that help communities, states, and the nation compete in a global economy. In nearly 200 communities in 41 states, JFF improves the pathways leading from high school to college to family-sustaining careers.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

The Web site <http://www.jff.org/wsw> is the basic source for information about Workforce Solutions Week. If you have questions, email Joshua Gambrell at jgambrell@jff.org or call 617.728.4446.