

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
Labor & Workforce Development
NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Christie Administration Partners with Businesses to Strengthen New Jersey's Workforce
NJBIA Workforce Development Summit Fosters Conversations on Business-Informed Workforce Investments

BRANCHBURG, N.J., April 19, 2016 – The Christie Administration today joined the New Jersey Business & Industry Association (NJBIA) at its first annual Workforce Development Summit where business and workforce leaders met to discuss workforce development investments targeted at meeting industry needs. Deputy Commissioner Aaron R. Fichtner, Ph.D of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD) moderated a panel discussion on advancing workforce skills and highlighted the department's new Talent Network initiative focused on meeting business demands for skilled workers.

"My department is committed to strengthening our workforce by partnering with businesses to determine their workforce needs and skill gaps," said Department of Labor Commissioner Harold J. Wirths. "Our new Talent Network initiative will further our mission of determining workforce investments that produce workers prepared to further their careers and strengthen our businesses."

Throughout 2016, the state's seven Talent Networks will facilitate the development of new high-quality employer-driven partnerships know as Targeted Industry Partnerships (TIPs) throughout the state. The Talent Networks will work closely with employers to identify industry-valued credentials for workers and define employer training and skill needs. The Talent Networks will then assemble workforce and education stakeholders to assess capacity and facilitate the development of specific area workforce strategies. These strategies will summarize key industry workforce needs for each TIP and propose efforts to prepare a skilled workforce and the development of new career pathways for students and jobseekers. LWD is committing a minimum of \$5 million to support the implementation of the strongest ideas developed through this process.

The summit also featured a keynote address from Dennis M. Bone, Chairman of the State Employment and Training Commission (SETC) and Director of the Feliciano Center for Entrepreneurship at Montclair State University, as well as a second panel led by Marie Barry, Assistant Division Director of NJ Department of Education's Office on Career Readiness. Speeches were given by former Governor James McGreevey and Michael J. McDonough, Ph.D, President of Raritan Valley Community College.

For more information about New Jersey's Talent Networks, contact NJTIPS@dol.nj.gov.

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