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Highlights from WIB Quarterly Meeting on December 6, 2012

Jocelynn Rainey, WIB Member and Vice President of Human Resources for the Brooklyn Navy Yard Corporation (BNYDC), reflected on a field trip to the Industrial and Transportation Workforce1 Career Center in Jamaica Queens. Joined by Michelle Light, OHCD Executive Director, on October 10, 2012, Ms. Rainey was impressed with the Workforce 1 Career Center's industry-focused programming, as well as the staff's professionalism and commitment to providing trainings directly related to the openings available through the strong partnerships the Center has fostered with employers. Knowing first-hand the challenge of finding job-ready candidates with specific industry skills befitting for BNYC, she was excited that the Center was helping to bridge the skills divide for the transportation sector. Additionally, Ms. Rainey recalled a discussion with Center staff about the challenge of placement sharing and external collaboration. Multiple WIB members at the meeting chimed in on this complex issue, which, they agreed, merits robust conversation with all stakeholders.

Karen Coleman, Deputy Commissioner of the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL); Chris Neale, Assistant Commissioner of the New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS); and Robert Garafola, Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation provided an update on workforce-related projects tied to Hurricane Sandy. These officials updated the WIB about federal National Emergency Grant (NEG) funding available for temporary post-disaster jobs targeting unemployed and dislocated workers. To date, NYS had received \$27.7 million in NEG funds to focus are Red Hook, Rockaway (Queens), Coney Island, and Staten Island. NYSDOL and SBS are exploring several opportunities with City agencies to continue hiring workers focused on both physical cleanup and humanitarian-related relief efforts. Workforce1 Career Centers will help recruit and identify eligible NEG workers.

Linda Gibbs, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, and Kristin Morse, WIB Member and New York City Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO) Executive Director, discussed two critical and highly successful workforce and educational initiatives housed in CEO. Among CEO's portfolio of programs and initiatives, Deputy Mayor Gibbs and Ms. Morse focused on CUNY ASAP (www.nyc.gov/html/ceo/html/programs/cuny_asap.shtml) and Jobs Plus (www.nyc.gov/html/ceo/html/programs/jobs-plus.shtml), providing the WIB with a holistic picture of how their office is addressing the need to bridge adult education and workforce development programming.

Reminder for March 20, 2013 WIB Quarterly Meeting

The next WIB Quarterly Meeting will be held March 20, 2013 at the SUNY Global Center from 8:30 to 10:30am. Breakfast and networking will be from 8:00 to 8:30am. Please RSVP to Deldreana Peterkin (dpeterkin@ohcd.nyc.gov) or 212-442-8342).

Written December 10, 2012