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Highlights from WIB Quarterly Meeting on December 12, 2013

NYC Department of Education (DOE) Chancellor Dennis Walcott Reflects on Administration's Progress. Chancellor Walcott thanked the WIB for its service, commending in particular the leadership of agency partners, such as NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), in workforce development among young people. He discussed the Bloomberg Administration's education record, highlighting that the dropout rate has dropped to an all-time low. The Chancellor noted the potential of DOE's Career and Technical Education programs to develop and remarked that the incoming team was well-positioned to take the City's public education system to the next level.

Organizers of NYC Opportunity Youth Agenda Introduce Campaign. Paula Gavin of the NYC Fund for Public Advocacy and Kevin Douglas of United Neighborhood Houses briefed the WIB about this new initiative to serve more of the City's 186,000 17-24 year olds who are not in school and not working.

OHCD Executive Director Michelle Light Shares Update on OHCD's Work. Among other topics, Michelle touched upon developments in Washington, DC regarding the federal shutdown, ongoing budget negotiations and a new federal "[Youth CareerConnect](#)" grant opportunity which will provide up to \$100 million to equip high school students with industry-relevant education and skills. All grantees must demonstrate a strong public/private partnership, including the local workforce investment system (the WIB). Michelle also noted the release of OHCD's first e-newsletter, spoke to OHCD's proposal to the NYC Workforce Funders to support the transition to a new high school equivalency exam, and outlined OHCD's work in developing a City-wide research agenda to take advantage of the new wage data law that takes effect on December 22, 2013.

NYC Departments Report on Use of WIA Funding. DYCD and the NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) both receive substantial workforce funding through the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and updated the WIB on their accomplishments. For example, in 2013, SBS will have connected more than 1,000 companies with talent, successfully placing New Yorkers in over 30,000 jobs, and DYCD placed nearly 36,000 young people into summer jobs at almost 7,000 worksites.

City Partners Discuss Innovative Adult Education Initiative for Young Immigrants. The federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program allows certain young immigrants to stay in the United States if they meet criteria including educational attainment or pursuit. In the summer of 2013, New York City dedicated \$18 million to provide legal services and adult education to those immigrants that are eligible for DACA. Through a facilitated panel discussion, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs offered the WIB some general context on the DACA policy, while CUNY and DYCD shared how they are using the \$18 million to assist immigrant New Yorkers.

Reminder for March 2014 WIB Quarterly Meeting

The next WIB Quarterly Meeting will be held from 8:30-10:30am on March 14, 2014 at the SUNY Global Center (116 East 55th Street in Manhattan). Members should RSVP by February 14, 2014 to Cesar Cardenas at ccardenas@ohcd.nyc.gov.

Written December 12, 2013