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## **Four Major Initiatives on Workforce Development Present Recommendations — Independent Yet Aligned—for Next Mayor on Job Creation and Re-Structuring of New York City’s Workforce System**

(New York, NY—June 25, 2013) — At a meeting last Thursday of the New York City Workforce Investment Board, four workforce development leaders presented recommendations that were independently produced yet significantly aligned on promoting a re-structuring of the city’s workforce development system. The Workforce Investment Board oversees the city’s federally-funded workforce development programs. Each workforce expert highlighted recent progress achieved in partnering with the city, yet all four underscored the need for substantial workforce system reform in order to meet the needs of both jobseekers and employers in New York City.

The four experts represented the Partnership for New York City, the New York City Employment & Training Coalition, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and the Re-Envisioning the New York City Workforce System Strategy Group. Each has issued a report with specific recommendations for the next mayor that link the promise of job creation to the challenges and opportunities of the city’s workforce system.

“Despite looking at this issue from a variety of points of view, it’s very telling that the collective opinion is the same – the workforce development system in New York City needs to be completely restructured,” said Merrill Pond, Senior Vice President, Partnership for New York City. “The city’s business community is committed to ensuring that New Yorkers are not left behind in our ever evolving economy. Expanded economic opportunity starts with teaching the proper skills and training for the jobs not only of today, but also tomorrow.” In April, the Partnership released [NYC Jobs Blueprint](#), outlining a set of recommendations for collaborative actions that the public and private sectors might take to insure that the New York remains a strong, inclusive city of opportunity.

“The City’s small businesses, leading corporations, philanthropic community, and diversity of education and job training providers have a shared vision for getting New Yorkers back to work and growing our economy. We have independently developed one coherent agenda for the next Mayor to realize a workforce system that trains and places more New Yorkers in quality jobs,” stated Lincoln Restler, Managing Director of the [New York City Employment & Training Coalition](#). The coalition created the [2013 NYCETC Employment and Training Agenda for Mayoral Candidates](#) that lays out six recommendations for the next Mayor of New York City to make smart investments to build a more cohesive workforce development system that can help reverse polarizing economic inequality and end the jobs crisis.

“As a non-partisan stake-holder, the Brooklyn Alliance was awarded a grant from The Rockefeller Foundation last year to support the ongoing job training and workforce dialogue between mayoral candidates and the business community,” said Jeanette Nigro, Vice President of the [Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce](#) which, through its Brooklyn Alliance

and in collaboration with other NYC Chambers of Commerce, created the [NYC Mayoral Forum Candidates Book](#) to provide an informative overview of the status of workforce development and small business issues in New York City. “By hosting this forum, we ensured that high-quality job training and opportunities for low-income New Yorkers receive much needed attention from candidates. We would like to thank the Rockefeller Foundation, NYC’s other four borough chambers and the mayoral candidates for participating in such an important discussion.”

“While we are all recommending fundamentally similar actions for a re-envisioned workforce system, we now need to take the next step of bringing key leaders together to agree concretely on the specifics of that vision,” said Steven Dawson, strategic advisor to [PHI-Quality Care through Quality Jobs](#) and co-chair of the [Strategy Group](#) that created the [Re-Envisioning the New York City Workforce System](#) document, commissioned by the NYC Workforce Funders and The Clark Foundation. “I hope the discussion at this meeting encourages the Workforce Investment Board to play a role in such a convening, with the end goal of helping the next mayor of New York City to prioritize workforce development and deliver on the promise of job creation, by redesigning the city’s \$400 million workforce system.”

The New York City Workforce Investment Board (WIB) is made up of volunteer members, appointed by the Mayor, including representatives of local businesses, institutions of higher education, labor unions, community-based organizations, and government agencies. The WIB had asked the four workforce experts to present in order to elevate and highlight to the Board members, and other invested partners, the recommendations they have offered for New York City’s consideration and action.

With New York City’s unemployment rate still above the national level, the next mayor will need to make job creation for all New Yorkers a top priority. Job creation is driven by both *economic development* (helping start new companies and expand existing businesses), as well as *workforce development* (job training for workers as well as helping businesses access New York City’s talent pool). The city can play a central role in supporting both—creating good jobs across all five boroughs.

Workforce development is a critical yet overlooked factor in job creation and retention, with programs that help workers and employers in the following ways:

- Job training – teaching workers skills they need for jobs in growth industries
- Worker-employer matching – connecting the right worker with the right employer
- Employee support – helping workers keep jobs and be successful in them
- Career development – providing new, on-the-job skills to benefit both workers and employers
- Job redesign – re-thinking how workers can become more efficient and productive

If acted upon by the next mayor, the recommendations presented at the WIB meeting would help New York City create a more integrated, 21st century, labor-market driven workforce system, one that offers individuals the skills and supports required to fill quality jobs that are truly in demand and, at the same time, helps businesses meet their strategic needs.

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**Media Contacts:**

- Partnership for New York City: Michael Levoff: 212-493-7511, [MLevoff@pnyc.org](mailto:MLevoff@pnyc.org)
- New York City Employment & Training Coalition: Angelina Garneva: 908-578-6013, [agarneva@nycetc.org](mailto:agarneva@nycetc.org)
- Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce: Clemente Lisi: 718-875-1000 x111, [CLisi@brooklynchamber.com](mailto:CLisi@brooklynchamber.com)
- Re-Envisioning the New York City Workforce System: Geoffrey Knox: 212-229-0540, [gknox@geoffreyknox.com](mailto:gknox@geoffreyknox.com)

**About the Partnership for New York City**

[The Partnership for New York City](#) is a nonprofit membership organization comprised of a select group of two hundred CEOs from New York City's top corporate, investment and entrepreneurial firms. Partners are committed to working closely with government, labor and the nonprofit sector to enhance the economy and maintain New York City's position as the global center of commerce, culture and innovation. The Partnership's mission is to engage the business community in efforts to advance the economy of New York City and maintain the city's position as the center of world commerce, finance and innovation. Through the Partnership Fund for New York City, the Partnership contributes directly to projects that create jobs, improve economically distressed communities and stimulate new business creation.

**About New York City Employment & Training Coalition**

The New York City Employment and Training Coalition ([www.nycetc.org](http://www.nycetc.org)) is an association of 200 community-based organizations, educational institutions, and labor unions that annually provide job training and employment services to over 750,000 New Yorkers. The Coalition's mission is to ensure that every New Yorker has access to the skills, training, and education needed to thrive in the local economy and that the private sector is able to retain a highly skilled workforce. Toward that mission, we provide technical assistance services to foster a dynamic and competent community of employment and training providers and advocate for workforce development policies that expand opportunity for training and education.

**About Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce**

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce promotes economic development across the borough and serves as an advocate for its member businesses. Our mission is to promote a healthy and robust business environment throughout Brooklyn. The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, with over 1,300 members, is the foremost resource for doing business in Brooklyn, respected as a leader in advancing public policy, new technologies, products, services and programs that support and promote a vibrant local economy. For more information, visit [brooklyn.com](http://brooklyn.com).

**About Re-Envisioning the New York City Workforce System**

[Re-Envisioning the New York City Workforce System](#) is a strategy paper commissioned by the [New York City Workforce Funders and The Clark Foundation](#). Authored by the [Workforce Strategy Group](#)—ten practitioners with decades of experience in the city's workforce system—this “re-envisioning” document is intended to inform the next Mayor of New York City, helping to deliver on the promise of job creation.