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## Highlights from WIB Quarterly Meeting on March 14, 2014

### National Skills Coalition Executive Director Andy Van Kleunen Addresses the WIB.

Mr. Van Kleunen offered insight into the latest discussions and developments from Washington, DC, such as President Obama's proposed FY2015 budget, Vice President Biden's 180-day review of training and employment programs, and new federal grant opportunities which look to foster high-performing partnerships. Mr. Van Kleunen laid out five principles which are key ingredients for success – (1) lead with strong executive support; (2) engage industry stakeholders; (3) utilize workforce intermediaries; (4) leverage funds from the philanthropic and private sector; and (4) place a premium on data and accountability as an essential way of doing business. All five principles are, as Mr. Van Kleunen explained, "vindication and indication for New York City" – as the federal government is simultaneously catching up to things that have already been fostered here and pointing the way to new directions.

### OHCD Executive Director Michelle Light Shares Update on OHCD's Work.

Reinforcing OHCD's ongoing role as a "horizontal agent in a vertical world," Michelle highlighted a few examples of OHCD's progress in the last three months, including OHCD's successful launch of the "[Find a Class](#)" online tool to help New Yorkers find free publicly-funded adult education throughout the five boroughs and OHCD's ongoing efforts to support successful implementation of the new wage data law that went into effect on December 22, 2013. Michelle also reported on the ongoing mayoral transition. She set forth the current situation regarding WIB membership and staffing deficits, noted that OHCD has been working with City Hall and appropriate parties to address these issues, and reinforced City Hall's commitment to replenish the membership and staff in order to resume business.

**NYC Departments Report on Use of WIA Funding.** The NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (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 recent activities. As a top priority, DYCD is concentrating on summer jobs right now (which is primarily supported with City and State tax levy) and looking to augment funding in order to offset the increased minimum wage and a corresponding reduction in federal Community Service Block Grant dollars. In 2013, nearly 36,000 young people were placed into jobs; without more funds in 2014, DYCD projects that it will only be able to serve about 28,000 youth. In addition, DYCD noted that the "Young Adult Internship Program" has received national attention and is entering the second year of a rigorous evaluation by MDRC.

Meanwhile, SBS shared the following updates: In 2013, SBS helped connect nearly 40,000 individuals to employment; the revitalized "individual training grant program" has already helped more than 800 jobseekers this year secure jobs in growing fields such as IT and healthcare; a "home health aide training program" has enrolled 1,537 workers to date, of whom 1,419 completed and will be earning \$10 per hour; the NYC Web Development Fellowship expects to graduate 28 new "coders" in mid-March, who are expected to be employed in jobs earning \$65,000 or more; and finally the "customized training program" has awarded grants to 6 new businesses, which will train over 100 incumbent workers and offer wage gains of over 14%.

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**WIB Says Farewell to Some and Welcomes New Members.** WIB Chair Kathy Kearns and OHCD Executive Director Michelle Light welcomed new ex-officio members to the board, as new City agency appointments have been made by the Mayor, including Donna Corrado (DFTA); Carmen Farina (DOE); Bill Chong (DYCD); Kyle Kimball (EDC); Steve Banks (HRA); Shola Olatoye (NYCHA); and Maria Torres-Springer (SBS). Kathy also acknowledged Scott Berger from Arista Air Conditioning as a new addition to the WIB Executive Committee and Youth Council Chair to replace outgoing member Reg Foster from IBM. Finally, Kathy and Michelle thanked Cesar Cardenas for his 4 years of service as a staff member and wished Cesar well in his future endeavors.

### **Reminder for June 2014 WIB Quarterly Meeting**

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The next WIB Quarterly Meeting will be held from 8:30-10:30am on June 19, 2014 at NYC Economic Development Corporation, 110 William Street, 4th floor conference room (in Manhattan). Members should RSVP by May 30, 2014 to Michelle Light at [milight@ohcd.nyc.gov](mailto:milight@ohcd.nyc.gov).

*Written March 17, 2014*