

### Workforce Investment Board Hosts Workforce Investment Act Training for Board Members and SBS Staff

On July 25, the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) hosted training sessions for Board members and SBS and the New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS) and Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) staff to learn more about the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the role of the Board. Greg Newton, an expert on WIA with over 20 years of experience in the workforce development community, provided an overview of

the workforce investment system tailored specifically for five WIB members. Mr. Newton also facilitated a separate three-hour session for SBS and DYCD program staff. Nearly 30 program staff participated in the session with opportunity for dialogue and question/answer. Thank you to Horace Barker, Arnold Dorin, Anthony Hunter (soon to be member representing the American Indian Community House), Mark Leff and Mia Simon for attending.

### Workforce Investment Board Executive Committee Reviews NYC Labor Market Information Service First Report



On July 30, the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Executive Committee met to review the NYC Labor Market Information Service (NYCLMIS) report: *Transportation Employment in New York City*. Committee members, Mark Elliott and Rocco Damato, in particular, provided insightful feedback on the layout, content and rollout of the report. Release is scheduled for September in order to incorporate feedback provided by several key stakeholders/users. The NYCLMIS is a partnership of the WIB and the City University of New York's Center for Urban Research which provides labor market analysis and tools for the public workforce system. The next Executive Committee meeting is October 30.

### Summer Intern Completes Work on Research and Development Projects

Over the summer, Jessica Gunderson, a summer intern, has been working to support research and development projects for the WIB. She helped with preparations for the federal audit including organizing and managing a resolution database. Additionally, she coordinated the recent training event noted above on the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Lastly, her key contribution has been to develop workforce development profiles for the NYC Congressional

delegation. These profiles include background information on the WIB and an overview of the specific workforce, youth, and business services and programs provided to their District. These materials will be used in future WIB visits with Congressional members and their staff. As the summer wraps up, she will be returning to complete her last year at Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University.

### Thank You to WIB Members!

The WIB would like to extend an enthusiastic thank you to **Horace Barker, Rocco Damato, Mark Elliott, Kathleen Kearns, Rae Linefsky, John Mogulescu, and Commissioner Robert W. Walsh** for their invaluable feedback on the New York City Labor Market Information Service (NYCLMIS) *Transportation Employment in New York City* report.

### Labor Market Information:

Private sector employment in New York City rose 31,300, or 1.0 percent, to 3,219,200 for the 12-month period ending May 2008.

#### Growth was largest in:

- Trade, transportation and utilities (+9,800)
- Educational and health services (+9,100)
- Information (+7,000)
- Leisure and hospitality (+5,300)
- Financial activities (+2,500)

Manufacturing lost jobs over the year (-8,400).

**Source:** James Brown, New York State Department of Labor

### Save the Date: NYCLMIS Transportation Sector Event in September

The New York City Labor Market Information Service (NYCLMIS) will be hosting *Transportation Employment in New York City* on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The event will feature a panel discussion of local workforce and transportation experts who will reflect on the implications of

the report for the workforce system in New York City. After the panel discussion, workforce providers, specifically Account Executives and Career Advisors will have an opportunity to learn how to practically apply the information to best serve jobseekers and businesses. The

research report will be available on the WIB and Center for Urban Research (CUR) websites. Additional information will be provided in an email invitation soon. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Lea Kilraine at [lkilraine@sbs.nyc.gov](mailto:lkilraine@sbs.nyc.gov).

## WIB and SBS Invited to Join the State Sector Policy Academy

On June 24 and July 21-23, WIB and SBS staff attended sessions of the New York State Sector Policy Academy. Funded by the National Governors Association, the State Sector Policy Academy program was established to promote important research, communicate promising practices, and provide technical assistance in workforce strategies focused on particular economic sectors in six states this year. The goal of the Policy Academy is to establish a state structure, funding, and policy environment that is conducive to sector initiatives in three target sectors in New York ("green," advanced manufacturing, and healthcare/bioscience). Other participants in the New York State Sector Policy Academy include the NYS Department of Labor, the Empire State Development Corporation, the State University of New York, the NYS Office of Temporary Disability Assistance, and industry-based organizations. WIB participation will ensure that the City's interests are represented as statewide workforce initiatives are developed as a result of the Academy. This forum is also a good opportunity to highlight successes of SBS's sector-based projects, including the recently-launched Workforce1 Transportation Center and the efforts of the Workforce1 Career Centers in meeting employer needs in targeted economic sectors.

## WIB Executive Director Attends US DOL Workforce Innovations Conference

Blake Foote, WIB Executive Director, attended the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration's Workforce Innovations Conference in New Orleans, LA July 15-17. The conference is a venue for leaders in the workforce development field, including business, economic development,

education, philanthropy and community based organizations, as well as high ranking government officials, to collaborate and gain knowledge of national best practices. Blake brought back information regarding youth workforce issues and the use of labor market data that can be applied here in NYC.

## NYC Business Solutions Training Funds Awarded

SBS announced in July the awarding of more than \$900,000 in NYC Business Solutions Training Funds to help eight local employers train their employees, and the availability of applications for an additional \$1.5 million in Training Funds which will be awarded to New York City businesses. The awards totaling \$920,002 will be matched by employer contributions of \$826,820 in order to train 563 New Yorkers, boosting the competitiveness of local businesses while resulting in 80 new hires and projected wage increases for 495 New Yorkers. "The majority of the New Yorkers who will receive training as a result of NYC Business Solutions Training Funds are currently making less than \$15 per

hour," said Robert W. Walsh, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Small Business Services. "In addition to raising the salaries and skill sets of these trainees, this funding will also boost the competitiveness of local businesses by increasing employee productivity, which can result in decreased costs, decreased waste and improved customer service." NYC Business Solutions Training Funds provide up to \$400,000 to cover as much as 60-70 percent of the eligible costs of training employees. Businesses can access the Training Funds pre-application online at [www.nyc.gov/training](http://www.nyc.gov/training) or learn more about the program by calling 311 and asking for "NYC Business Solutions Training."

## WIB Workforce Policy Committee Reviews New Workgroups

On August 14th, the NYC Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Workforce Policy Committee met to discuss the progress of its new Workgroup structure. This structure is meant to facilitate the creation of short-term, outcome-oriented workgroups that further the work of the WIB's strategic priorities. At the meeting, two business members provided a report to the Committee on the activities of the Business Engagement and Member Recruitment Workgroup, aimed

at recruiting new business members to the WIB and engaging more businesses to use the public workforce system's services. WIB Executive Director, Blake Foote, provided an overview of the other initiatives of the Workforce Policy Committee: the Economic Trends Roundtable, held in May, and the Industry Advisory Groups. After discussion about a new Workgroup, it was decided to organize one in the future that looks at the system's key metrics for defining success.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

**John Mogulescu, The City University of New York Senior University Dean for Academic Affairs  
and Dean of the School of Professional Studies**



### Why are you a member of the WIB?

I have worked at CUNY since 1972 in many different capacities. Much of my work has been spent creating and operating workforce development programs for New Yorkers of

all ages and educational backgrounds. While CUNY has had wonderful success in educating and training students for meaningful work, we continue to struggle to find well paying jobs for those New Yorkers who come to us with limited skills and education. Membership on the WIB

provides the opportunity to influence both workforce and economic development policy within the city as well as be exposed to the thinking of other experts who are struggling to find answers to this problem.

### Why are the services offered through the system important to businesses?

City businesses need qualified and talented workers to ensure success. Businesses also need to be partners with education and training providers in working to define what skills workers will need to have in the economy of the 21st century. By bringing the business and training communities together, the WIB is able to stimulate the kinds of interaction that hopefully will lead to better informed programs, resulting in better

trained workers.

### What is your favorite place in New York City?

As a life-long Brooklyn resident and booster, who lives only two blocks from Prospect Park, it is no surprise that this glorious public space is my favorite place. Here is a place where you can bring your children for any number of fun and stimulating activities, exercise, see beautiful birds, trees and plants, listen to fabulous music (including Bob Dylan this summer), shop at a green market, play baseball or any number of other sports, and just watch the incredible diversity and feel the spirit that is New York during any time of the day. I can and have done all of this and more in Prospect Park for much of my life.