

WIB and SBS Host Delegation from China



On January 9, The NYC Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) staff discussed the City's workforce development programs with a delegation from Hubei Modern Service Industry Study Mission. The delegation visited

to learn more about New York City's workforce development efforts and Business Improvement Districts. The interest of this delegation is another example of the international attention received by New York City's business-driven workforce development system.

WIB Policy Director Attends Conference of Mayors

On January 16-17, WIB Policy Director, Stephanie Martinez and SBS staff, attended the U.S. Conference of Mayors Workforce Development Council (WDC) Annual Winter Meeting in Washington, DC. At this meeting, members of the WDC gathered to share best practices in workforce development programming and advocacy efforts. The WDC heard from Members of the House and Senate Committees responsible for WIA reauthorization, including Congressman Chaka Fattah (D-PA) a key House appropriator, as well as workforce expert John Colbert, regarding the recent stimulus

legislation and WIA reauthorization. As follow-up to this meeting, the WIB staff will be convening calls between Chicago, L.A. and San Diego to brainstorm and share best practices about additional programming to spend stimulus dollars both quickly and smartly. Additionally, WIB staff will be working with the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) to articulate key aspects of their Summer Youth Employment Program in order to share with other areas who do not currently operate summer programs, and provide guidance on how to ramp-up quickly with this new infusion of funds.

Operator Consortium Meets

The Operator Consortium (OC) of the NYC Workforce Investment Board met on December 18, 2008. The purpose of the OC is to provide the key "operators" of the public system; NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS), NYS Department of Labor (NYSDOL), and City University of New York (CUNY), a forum to discuss policy implementation for the Workforce1 Career Center system. At the meeting, new members of the OC Shanna Gumaer from SBS and Mary Kelly from NYSDOL, as well as long time member Mia

Simon from CUNY, discussed how to action the OC work plan developed in 2008. Members agreed that prior to deciding what areas the OC will commit their focus in 2009, Mary and Shanna will meet in the interim to review current customer flow and new demands on the system. This research will allow the OC to prioritize work based on the current issues facing the Centers. The next OC meeting will be in early March.

Letter From Blake Foote



It is bittersweet for me to leave the NYC WIB to be a full-time mom. But as I know many of you can appreciate, these are precious months with my new son, John. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all of the members - each with your unique expertise, insights, and passion. Thank you for the work that you do to support workforce development services for adults and youth in NYC. We've made exceptional strides over the years due to your support and contributions. I will miss working with such active and diverse Board members and the talented WIB staff, but I hope that our paths will cross again. I wish you all the best with your individual endeavors and the work you will continue to do to develop the NYC WIB and the innovative workforce development system it oversees.

Blake

Labor Market Information:

Private sector employment in New York City fell by 49,100, or 1.5 percent, to 3,211,700 for the 12-month period ending December 2008.

Growth was largest in:

- Educational and health services (+6,300)
- Leisure and hospitality (+1,300)

Financial activities lost jobs over the year (-18,800), as did professional and business services (-8,900), natural resources, mining and construction (-7,000), manufacturing (-7,300), and trade, transportation and utilities (-13,200).

Source: James Brown, Employment In New York State

Thank You!

The WIB would like to warmly thank Kathleen Kearns for her hospitality and leadership in hosting the January WIB Member Gathering, as well as to all those that attended. The event was a product of the Business Engagement and Member Recruitment Workgroup, and was aimed at both recruiting new members to the Board as well as exposing new businesses to our system and services. In the coming year we will be leaning on the board to support our employer recruitment efforts, so look out for similar events in the near future. If you are interested in hosting a WIB member event please contact Melinda at mmulawka@sbs.nyc.gov.

Upcoming Meetings

WIB Meeting Schedule:

Quarterly (8:30 AM - 10:30 AM)

March 19, 2009

Location: 110 William Street, 4th Floor

WIB Committee Meeting Schedule:

Executive (8:30 AM - 9:30 AM)

February 5, 2009

Workforce Policy (8:30 AM - 10:00 AM)

March 5, 2009

Location: 110 William Street, 4th Floor

Youth Board and Youth Council:

March 3, 2009 (8:30 AM - 10:30 AM)

Location: 156 William Street, 2nd Floor

Policy Corner by the WIB's Policy Director

To ensure that WIB Members are aware of changes in Washington and Albany that affect our work in New York City, the *WIB Wire* will now feature a policy corner to provide Members with relevant and timely information regarding workforce legislation and policy. For any questions on the Policy Corner, please contact the WIB's Policy Director, Stephanie Martinez at smartinez@sbs.nyc.gov.

This month's Policy Corner focuses on the much talked about Congressional stimulus bill, which includes new funding for workforce development. On January 28, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, by a vote of 244 - 188. The bill included \$1.2 billion for WIA Youth formula funding (or funding disseminated to local areas through the current WIA allocation formula), \$1 billion for WIA Dislocated Worker formula funding and \$500 million in WIA Adult formula funding. The Mayor's

Washington legislative office and John Twomey at the New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals (NYATEP) have indicated that if House bill language remains unaltered through the Senate bill, we can assume that NYC's share can be estimated at,

- *16.8 million in Adult Funds
- *\$11.2 million in Dislocated Worker Funds
- *\$36.4 million in Youth Funds
- *Total Funds: \$64.4 million over 2 years.

The Senate will consider their version of the stimulus bill as early as next week. Once the Senate passes their version of the legislation the bill will go to conference. In order to hit the ground running both SBS and DYCD are busy planning to spend down the funds. In next month's *Wire* we will provide updated numbers on the final stimulus package, as well as provide the Board with a memo in mid-February detailing the impact of the stimulus on the public workforce system.

NYC Business Solutions Training Funds

The NYC Business Solutions Training Funds Pre-application is due February 11, 2009.

The pre-application is now available at: www.nyc.gov/html/sbs/nycbiz/html/training/trainingfunds_preapp.shtml

If you or businesses you work with would like to apply, simply fill out the 10-minute online

pre-application and an Account Manager will contact you to assist throughout the application process.

For additional information go to www.nyc.gov/training or send an email to: training@sbs.nyc.gov



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Deirdre Scott, Founder and President of DesignPolice



Why are you a member of the WIB?

I was delighted to have the opportunity to join the WIB. I think it is a progression and extension of the civic work that I have been

doing over the years with boards and direct community involvement. I am passionate about working on issues that are affecting communities, individuals, and organizations on the ground. The WIB helps facilitate this both via policy and through initiatives such as the SBS's Workforce1 Career Centers. Areas that are particularly important to me are providing people with opportunities through jobs and job readiness. Investing in people and developing their skills prepares them for the future - this is both urgent and vital.

Why are the services offered through the

system important to businesses?

The services provided by the WIB are extremely important because they add to the economic growth of New York City. The WIB seeks aggressively to engage businesses in the conversation of development. WIB provides support, resources and educational tools for businesses and people to grow. The WIB is constantly researching and gathering data to determine the needs of our workforce system. Part of this process is achieved by keeping an open and ongoing dialogue with the business community and creating a robust network of resources to address those needs. Small businesses really need a leg up especially now. They can often get caught up with just getting through day-to-day operations, so the WIB and the services provided by SBS are seen as a "light" that helps them navigate some of those complexities.

What is your favorite place in New York City?

The Bronx - for more reasons than I can mention here. I am very excited about the new development that is happening in the Bronx in many areas, including the expansion and success of job training and placement programs. Other exciting projects include the redevelopment and restoration of the Grand Concourse, numerous greening and environmental programs, the new Yankee Stadium complex, and renewed focus on business districts. There is tremendous growth in the cultural arena as well. My background is in arts, culture and technology so this is very near to my heart. We have a dynamic cultural corridor and several newly emerging cultural districts that are also cornerstones of community revitalization. In general, when I am involved in issues that matter I feel useful. It feels good to be able to contribute to where I live. Though I was not born here I've become a real "Bronxite" particularly through community work which brings the borough and its people closer.