

## WIB Hosts Economic Trends Roundtable



The New York City Workforce Investment Board (WIB) hosted an NYC Economic Trends Roundtable discussion on Friday, May 16th to raise program staff and stakeholder awareness on current labor market conditions.

WIB member **Mark Elliott**, President, Economic Mobility Corporation, facilitated a roundtable discussion between Jim Brown from the NYS Department of Labor, Jason Bram from the Federal Reserve Bank, and WIB Executive Director Blake Foote. Over sixty attendees, including 11 WIB members, joined the panelists and shared their insights on emerging industry trends and

labor market forecasts, including impacted occupations that the workforce development system should be paying close attention to in the coming months.

## WIB and SBS Craft Policy Paper for the U.S. Conference of Mayors

Over the last month, the WIB and the NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) have worked closely with the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) to develop a white paper with USCM members from across the country detailing the core principles for a business-driven workforce system. This white paper will be used by the USCM as a key document when speaking with presidential candidates and members of Congress regarding potential Workforce Investment Act reauthorization and/or other key workforce programming. As such, the paper highlights six essential tenets for workforce programming: business-driven, locally-controlled, funded to reflect its importance, appropriately measured, strongly youth focused, and built on partnerships. The draft of this white paper was presented by NYC WIB Executive Director Blake Foote at the USCM conference in New Orleans April 23-24, and edits will be incorporated into a final set of documents for the Mayors' June meeting in Miami.

## WIB Welcomes New Staff

The WIB is pleased to announce one permanent and two temporary additions to the WIB staff.



**Lea Kilraine** will be joining the WIB on May 21st as the Communications and Research Director. In this new role, she will oversee project management for the NYC Labor Market Information Service, build-out and maintain the WIB website, and design WIB marketing and outreach materials such as the WIB WIRE. Prior to joining the WIB, Lea worked for Teach for America as a Consultant on Special Projects, where she worked to strengthen partnerships across the New York City education system and at Baring Private Equity Partners as a Research Analyst. Lea holds a Masters in Public Administration degree from Columbia University.

We are also delighted to have two interns join us this spring and summer. **Jorge Rios**, a Coro Fellow, has joined the WIB for several weeks over the late spring to develop a research report on turnover cost in the healthcare, retail and hospitality industries. His research was presented to the WIB and NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) staff on May 14th, and will be utilized by the NYC Business Solutions and Workforce1 Training & Advancement teams at SBS.



**Jessica Gunderson**, a graduate student at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at NYU, will join the WIB May 19th as our summer intern. She will work closely with the WIB staff to develop workforce development services profiles for the NYC Congressional delegation, as well as work on several other projects.

## WIB Welcomes Two New Business Members

We are thrilled to announce the addition of two new business members to the WIB Board, **Mr. Ken Dircks** and **Ms. Deirdre Scott**.



**Ken** is a Senior Executive with Accenture, where he co-leads the government practice division. In this role, he is responsible for identifying, developing, and delivering on opportunities to assist government clients with large scale business change and technology implementation projects. **Deirdre** is the Founder and President of DesignPolice, a Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) certified firm located in the Bronx that specializes in organizational development, cultural technology and media consulting. In addition to her responsibilities at DesignPolice, she also serves as the Director of Technology at the Studio Museum in Harlem.

Welcome Ken and Deirdre - we look forward to working with you both!

## Mayor Unveils Renovated Queens Center



From left to right: Queens Borough President Helen M. Marshall, Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott, City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn, Mayor Bloomberg, State Senator Malcolm Smith and SBS Commissioner Walsh

WIB Chair **Stuart Saft** was on hand as **Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg** and City Council Speaker **Christine C. Quinn** unveiled the newly-renovated Queens Workforce1 Career Center and NYC Business Solutions Center on April 25th. The Jamaica, Queens based Center now offers additional training and recruitment rooms and computer stations and a revamped communications system. The Mayor and Speaker were joined by state and local elected officials, and Queens-based business owners and jobseekers. At the press conference, Mayor Bloomberg noted that, "Since aligning our workforce training and small business services in 2003, we've placed New Yorkers in 50,000 jobs and helped thousands of local businesses become more competitive by providing them with hiring assistance. Our Workforce1 Career Center and NYC Business Solutions Center in Jamaica achieved a record number of job placements last year, and after the expansion it will be positioned to serve even more New Yorkers." The Queens Workforce1 Center is home to several Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO) investments, including the Income Plus Career Advancement program and the soon-to-be launched Transportation Sector Center. To schedule a tour of the Queens Workforce1 Career Center, please contact **Melinda Mulawka** at 212.618.8956 or [mmulawka@sbs.nyc.gov](mailto:mmulawka@sbs.nyc.gov).

### Upcoming Events

#### QUARTERLY MEETING

8:30am - 10:00am  
June 12, 2008

Brooklyn Workforce1 Career Center @ 9 Bond Street

#### YOUTH COUNCIL

8:30am - 10:00am  
June 4, 2008

Community Resource Exchange @ 42 Broadway 20th Floor

All meetings of the New York City Workforce Investment Board are open to the public. Detailed minutes of past board and committee-level meetings, as well as resolutions approved by the board, are available in PDF formats and on our website at [www.nyc.gov/wib](http://www.nyc.gov/wib).

## Leadership Changes at SBS

Over the past several weeks, the Workforce Development Division at the NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) has undergone key leadership changes.



Angie Kamath, new Deputy Commissioner of Workforce Development

After nine years of dedicated service with the City's workforce development programs, **Scott Zucker**, the Deputy Commissioner of Workforce Development, has stepped down to take on new challenges. Scott has been instrumental in building the Workforce1 system we have today, and will be greatly missed! As Scott embarks on new endeavors, **Angie Kamath** will take on the role of Deputy Commissioner of Workforce Development. Until recently,

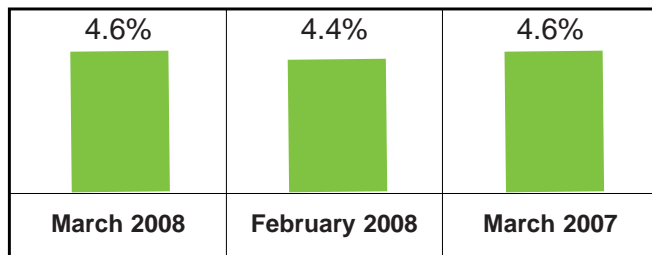
Angie served as the Assistant Commissioner of Program Design and Development at SBS, where she directed the implementation of the City's employment programs to advance the working poor that are funded by the Mayor's Center for Economic Opportunity. Many WIB members are familiar with Angie, as she has presented numerous times at WIB meetings and events over the past few years, and we look forward to continuing a strong partnership with the Workforce Development Division at SBS under her leadership.

## Labor Market Data

The March 2008 Unemployment Rate in New York City was 4.6%, the March 2008 U.S. National Unemployment Rate rose from 4.8% to 5.1%.

### New York City Unemployment Rates

Not seasonally adjusted



### Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted April 2005 - March 2008

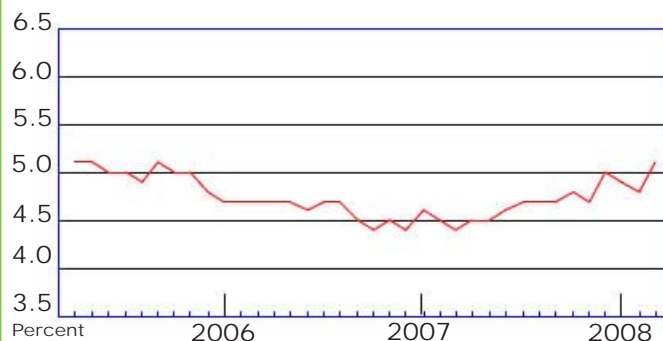


Chart 1