

A half-day conference for ALL Mercer County employers:

- Learn about New Jersey's new plan for economic growth;
- Access resources for finding and keeping good employees;
- Shape the future priorities of the Mercer County Workforce Investment Board.



Conference sponsors



Mercer County Executive
Brian Hughes



Conference organized by
Mercer County Workforce Investment Board



Mercer County's Untapped Workforce

...and *your* organization's challenges



A half-day conference for ALL Mercer County employers

Thursday, October 5, 2006
1:30 - 5 p.m., with reception to follow



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Conference Program

A. General Opening Session 1:30 p.m. Auditorium

Host: Dr. Thomas Wilfrid, Acting President, Mercer County Community College

1. Welcome, **Brian M. Hughes, Mercer County Executive**
2. Keynote speaker, **Henry Plotkin, Executive Director, NJ State Employment and Training Commission**
3. Panel discussion I:

Employers summarize their workforce needs

Moderator: **Michele Siekerka**, President, Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce

- a. Verizon representative (to be named)
- b. Christy Stephenson, CEO, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Hamilton
- c. Lenny Lewis, Youth Advocate, Wegmans Food Market
- d. Pat Ryan, CEO, Hopewell Valley Bank
- e. Pam Mount, Owner, Terhune Orchards
- f. Lois Penn, Director of Business Development, Child Care Connection

4. Panel discussion II:

The Mercer County Workforce Investment Board: Purposes and Opportunities

Moderator: **Charles Hill**, Director, Mercer County Office of Economic Opportunity

- a. Rick Lovering, VP, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Hamilton
- b. Virgen Velez, Mercer County One-Stop Career Center
- c. Diane Zompa, NJ State Employment and Training Commission
- d. Samuel Frisby, City of Trenton

B. Break 3:15 to 3:30 p.m. Atrium and Patio

C. Let's discuss the issues (interactive breakout sessions) 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

1. One-Stop Career Center Services. Facilitator: Frank Cirillo, Director, Mercer County Board of Social Services
2. Young Workers. Facilitator: Dr. Kimberly Schneider, Superintendent, Mercer County Technical Schools
3. Health Occupations. Facilitator: Scott Clemmensen, VP, Capital Health Systems
4. Upgrading Workforce Literacy. Facilitator: Dr. Beverly Richardson, VP/Provost, Mercer County Community College

D. Closing General Session 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. Auditorium

Moderator: **Dr. Emanuel Osagie**, Dean, School of Business, The College of New Jersey

E. Networking reception 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

About the conference

Consider these current realities:

Employers – large, midsize and small – face many challenges in finding and keeping good employees.

Good people find themselves unemployed or under-employed, for a variety of reasons.

Mercer County has a newly re-energized Workforce Investment Board (WIB) through which private and public employers and service agencies collaborate to connect employers who need workers with people who need employment.

New Jersey has a new Economic Growth Plan that offers hope for moving the state's robust economic base to a new level of prosperity for all.

This conference will bring all of this together:

Henry Plotkin, Executive Director of the State of New Jersey's Employment and Training Commission (SETC), will update us on the state's Economic Growth Plan and its implications for your organization and other New Jersey employers, and for the statewide network of WIBs and One-Stop Career Centers.

Local employers, large and small will speak of their needs and challenges in relation to employee recruitment, retention and training.

Mercer County WIB members will summarize the resources and assistance currently available to employers and some challenges that are currently being addressed. Vendors will share materials and handouts.

Each attendee will have the opportunity to contribute specific suggestions for the Mercer County WIB to consider in its strategic planning process.

The conference will start promptly at 1:30 p.m. and will end at 5:00 p.m., with a networking reception to follow, sponsored by Verizon.

The organizers hope that many local employers will take advantage of this special opportunity.

There is NO COST to attend, but REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

You may do so by calling the Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce at (609) 989-9960 or by visiting www.mercerchamber.org and accessing the October calendar under the Events screen.

For directions to **The Conference Center at Mercer**, visit http://www.mccc.edu/cc/contact_direction.shtml.

