



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



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COMMISSIONER DAVID SOCOLOW PRESENTS COMPETITIVE CUSTOMIZED TRAINING GRANT TO OWENS CORNING

KEARNY, September 6, 2007 – Maintaining its efforts to keep New Jersey a national leader in workforce development, Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner David Socolow awarded a \$114,960 competitive customized training grant to Owens Corning to help its workers compete in the new economy.

"There is no more important thing we can do for our economy than make sure our workers and businesses have the skills they need to compete," said Commissioner Socolow. "The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development is focusing on training today's workers by providing the skills that will be in demand tomorrow, so that our state is poised to be a leader in providing a highly skilled and highly trained workforce to the business community."

Commissioner Socolow was joined by Owens Corning officials, representative from United Steel Workers Local 4-149 and Teamsters Local 408, elected officials and employees of Owens Corning's Kearny Roofing and Asphalt manufacturing plant.

Owens Corning, a manufacturer of roofing shingles and asphalt, is matching the grant with a \$151,126 contribution. JVS is providing training in such areas as computer skills, manufacturing, mathematics and communications to current and new hires of Owens Corning.

"The employees of Owens Corning at the Kearny Roofing and Asphalt manufacturing plants are very excited about receiving a Customized Training Grant for \$114,960. This grant will be used to provide skill based training for all our employees. This grant will also ensure that Owens Corning remains competitive in a very difficult marketplace," said Tim Brink, Human Resources Leader at Owens Corning. "As manufacturers of home building products our company is very dependent on the housing market. Given the decline in this segment of the economy we must find every way possible to make high quality products at the least cost in order to grow and prosper. The key to achieving this is leveraging the skills of our employees. The training this grant will provide to our employees will ensure their job security and the company's long term success."

Customized training grants are matching grants awarded to New Jersey businesses to provide training to the company's workforce in skills specifically needed to increase productivity and marketability. The grants, awarded through the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, are funded through the Workforce Development Partnership Program.

During the Second Cycle of Notice of Grant Opportunities, 65 Competitive Customized Training Grants were awarded amounting over \$6.8 million and it is estimated that over 13,000 New Jersey workers were trained.

Information about competitive customized training and literacy grants is available by calling (609) 633-6799 or on the Internet at http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/employer/training/incentives_training_index.html.

Click to view photos of the event

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