



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



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**Contact:****Marcela Ospina**

TEL: 609.292.0306

FAX: 609.777.3634

- News Release -

**Contact:****Kevin Smith**

TEL: 609.984.2841

FAX: 609.777.3634

### Tristate Innovation Network Announces \$6.6 Million to Support World-Class Life Sciences Industry

**PHILADELPHIA** – Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell, Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner and New Jersey Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development David J. Socolow today announced that \$6.6 million in federal grants has been awarded to the tristate region to help develop a highly skilled workforce to support the area's growing life sciences industry.

Business, education, government, economic development and workforce leaders in a 13-county area in Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania formed the Delaware Valley Innovation Network (DVIN) to transform the way the tristate region prepares workers for high-skilled jobs in the life sciences industry.

"We have seen great success in bringing companies and labor together through industry partnerships to address collective training needs," Governor Rendell said. "This network takes the concept of industry partnerships to the next level by bringing together the leadership of three states and key players in the life sciences industry to work together to build the region and create jobs."

"Working together on a regional level will benefit all three states by helping us to become more competitive," Governor Minner said. "The life sciences industry is vital to the economy of this region, and it only makes sense that we work together so we can strengthen the efforts of our three states to help grow this important industry in our region."

The \$6.6 million consists of two U.S. Department of Labor (U.S. DOL) Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grants totaling \$5.1 million and a \$1.5 million Advanced Manufacturing grant from U.S. DOL in the biotechnology sector.

"Each of our three states has been investing in separate initiatives in the

biotechnology and life sciences arena," said Commissioner Socolow, who represented Governor Corzine at the event. "DVIN provides us with a vehicle to build upon these initiatives and take them across state boundaries to benefit the workers and businesses of the entire region."

According to a 2005 Milken Institute study, nearly 400 companies are engaged in core life sciences activities such as biotechnology, pharmaceutical and medical device companies in Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The tristate region's life sciences industry is responsible for 276,000 total jobs or 11.4 percent of all employment, with supportive industries employing more than 300,000 people.

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Department of Labor and Workforce Development: 1 John Fitch Plaza, P.O. Box 110 Trenton, NJ 08625-0110  
Email: [Constituent.Relations@dol.state.nj.us](mailto:Constituent.Relations@dol.state.nj.us)

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