



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



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Freehold, November 29, 2007—Today, Labor Commissioner David Socolow and Assistant US Secretary of Labor Emily DeRocco, launched Central Jersey's BIO-1 initiative during New Jersey's Life Sciences Week running from November 26 – December 3. The Bio-1 consortium, including five Central New Jersey counties (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Somerset), received \$5.0 million in Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) funding from the U.S. Department of Labor. This investment will advance Governor Corzine's economic growth strategy, which expands employment opportunities and creates high-skill, high-wage jobs.

"WIRED investments play a vital role in transforming our workforce and positioning New Jersey to retain its leadership role in the bioscience sector," said Governor Jon S. Corzine. "The funds will also help us align our state's education, training, and economic development resources with the workforce development needs of the bioscience industry."

"This WIRED initiative is a strong partnership among life science business leaders, workforce development agencies, educational institutions and workers. The Bio-1 consortium will invest in our state's workforce to develop talent and prepare today's and tomorrow's professionals in the life sciences industries," said Labor Commissioner David J. Socolow. "This investment, coupled with the state's job training resources, will increase New Jersey's capacity for innovation through workforce development by training workers who are already on the job in key sectors of our economy and will increase the pool of trained professionals residing in New Jersey."

"By integrating education and career-skills training with existing biotech and pharmaceutical industries, Central New Jersey WIRED will provide workers with pathways to careers in in-demand professions," said DeRocco. "Linking education to industry through internships, cooperatives and mentoring will allow this region to develop its own highly skilled workforce with the talent to meet business needs."

The BIO-1 partnership, named for the cluster of biotechnical firms stretched along the Route 1 corridor from Rutgers University to Princeton, endeavors to make Central New Jersey the next "hot spot" for the global bioscience industry by creating high-quality, high-paying jobs, and a skilled workforce. Central New Jersey's BIO-1 project joins Northern New Jersey and the Delaware Valley Innovation Network to become the third region awarded WIRED funds in the state of New Jersey.

"Central New Jersey is delighted to be the third WIRED region in our state, making New Jersey the most WIRED state," said Mary Ellen Clark, executive director of the BIO-1 initiative for Rutgers University. "I have already been in discussions with the leaders from the other two WIRED regions in New Jersey and we plan to work together to achieve many of our common goals."

The goal of BIO-1 is to retain and expand the number of high-quality jobs in Central New Jersey's bioscience sector by coordinating the efforts of the workforce development, education, economic development, and employer communities. The project will build a network of partners from state, local, and federal sources including biotechnology, pharmaceutical and medical-device firms and their industry associations, research universities, K-12 schools, government, and nonprofit groups.

WIRED investments focus on regional partnerships comprised of multiple labor market jurisdictions that transcend political and geographic boundaries.

In addition to federal WIRED investments Governor Corzine's administration, through the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, has invested nearly \$29 million for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 in Customized Training grants to 337 employers to train 71,287 workers. The Department targeted certain key industry sectors through the governor's economic growth plan for enhanced customized training grants. One of the key targeted industries for these grants was life sciences; 40 employers in the life sciences received \$3,480,932 to train 7,099 workers in cutting-edge skills. These employers invest their own resources to match the state's investment to train their own workers in skills and business processes that enable their businesses to grow and thrive in global competition.

A variety of events and speakers marked Life Sciences Week and highlighted New Jersey's commitment to life sciences and to initiatives like BIO-1. The week's activities included a conference at the Liberty Science Center on Advancing Health, Science, and Communities; a tour of the Tris Pharma facility in Brunswick Business Park; the launch of BIO-1 and, tomorrow, a Healthcare Conference at Rutgers University, New Brunswick.

Go to www.nj.gov/labor or call the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Office of Grants Operations at 609-984-9414 for information on training partnerships and initiatives including high-growth workforce development training grants.

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