



# ***BWIB Memberandum***

**Week of April 24, 2009**

- **Recovery and Reinvestment Act Update**

The BWIB and MOED have been actively preparing for the impending receipt of funds to support workforce training, as provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The intent of ARRA is to create and retain jobs; to retool the skills of American workers and re-establish them in viable career pathways; and to increase services and training for workers in need and promote the effectiveness of the public workforce system.

Recently, a Training Vendor Forum was held to offer potential workforce training providers the opportunity to learn more about how they could partner with the BWIB and MOED to help prepare Baltimore residents to successfully compete in today's economically-challenging environment using the ARRA funds. Additionally, a "Request for Expressions of Interest" is expected to be released on May 1<sup>st</sup>. This document will allow training vendors to submit proposals for training unemployed, underemployed, or dislocated Baltimore workers for meaningful jobs in high growth careers and placing these participants into employment.

- **Sector-Based Employment Bill Introduced in Congress**

Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Olympia Snowe (R-ME), and Patty Murray (D-WA) announced legislation which, if passed, would represent the first Congressionally-authorized investment in sector partnerships. The "Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success (SECTORS) Act of 2009" would amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and establish a new Industry or Sector Partnership Grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor. Grants would allow recipients to establish or expand industry or sector partnerships that lead collaborative planning, resource alignment, and training efforts across multiple firms for current and potential workers within the targeted industry cluster. Similar legislation was considered during the previous session of Congress.

- **Oates Nominated as Assistant Secretary for US Dept. of Labor**

Earlier this month, President Barack Obama nominated Jane Oates, New Jersey's top higher education official and former top aide to U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy, to serve as Assistant Secretary for the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration.

Oates is currently the executive director of the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education and a senior adviser to Governor Jon S. Corzine. Upon confirmation by the Senate, Oates would oversee the agency's work on spending the additional billions in federal stimulus money for job training, and work with Congress to renew WIA, among other things.

- **Baltimore Regional Employer Institute Continues**

The most recent session of the Baltimore Regional Employer Institute, featuring Johns Hopkins University – Bloomberg School of Public Health, was held on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. At this event, participants learned how private and public partners came together to sponsor numerous coordinated activities designed to promote healthcare careers to city youth – an endeavor which will surely help grow the pipeline of qualified healthcare workers across a range of discipline areas.

For additional details on future forums, or to sign up for any of the sessions, please go to the Institute's website at: <http://baltimoreregionalemployerinstitute.com>.

- **Dates of Interest**

Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> (8:00 am) – Baltimore Regional Employers Institute: Dietrich Industries  
Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 – Release of MOED/BWIB ARRA Training Request for Expressions of Interest

Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> (8:00 am) – BWIB Training & Postsecondary Education Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> (8:30 am) – BWIB Workforce System Effectiveness Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> (8:00 am) – Baltimore Regional Employers Institute: University of Maryland Medical System

Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> (11:00 am) – Deadline for Receipt of ARRA Request for Expressions of Interest

**Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> (7:30 am) – BWIB Full Board Meeting**

Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> (7:45 am) – BWIB Youth Council Meeting

*\*\*\*If you would like additional information regarding any of the issues or events discussed throughout this publication, please feel free to contact Jeff Smith.\*\*\**