

MASSACHUSETTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 06-50

Policy Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Investment Board Chairs
Workforce Investment Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Associate Directors
DCS Field Managers

cc: WIA State Partners

From: Jane C. Edmonds, Director
Department of Workforce Development

Date: August 4, 2006

Subject: 2006 Workforce Summit: "*The Next Frontier*" September 25, 2006

Purpose: To inform Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators, and other local workforce development partners of the upcoming **2006 Workforce Summit: *The Next Frontier* on September 25, 2006** at the Doubletree Hotel in Westborough.

The objective of the *2006 Workforce Summit* is to convene a statewide conference of the many partners who provide workforce development programs and services:

1. to articulate the challenges and opportunities facing the workforce development system in Massachusetts over the next several years; and
2. to develop policy goals and action steps for the system in order to address these opportunities and challenges.

The day will consist of presentations by local, state and nationally renowned speakers and workshops on issues most critical to the workforce development system. As a state we will explore important policy issues and develop action steps for the workforce development system, based upon input at the Summit.

CONTEXT: The Massachusetts economy is slowly rebounding from the economic downturn that drained hundreds of thousands of jobs from the workplace. A significant number of those jobs have been restored, although far short of where we started (*the Boston Globe*, 12/19/05). The jobs that do exist in the economy, as reported by the Massachusetts Job Vacancy Survey, point to persistent job vacancies for occupations that require specific job skills or more than an Associates Degree. More importantly, some structural problems continue to affect the economy [e.g. outsourcing, lack of growth of the workforce, reliance on an immigrant labor force, issues of literacy and language (*Mass Inc.'s New Economy Report*)]. In addition, youth employment is at an all-time low and academic achievement of a high school diploma is out of reach for many of our young people.

As we move forward to build and sustain the momentum in our economy, several questions emerge:

- *Is the workforce development system poised to serve as an effective resource to address these and other issues?*
- *Do policy-makers, employers, and other key stakeholders view the workforce development system as an essential component of any economic growth strategy?*
- *Has the workforce development system clearly articulated who we are, what we do and how we support various aspects of the labor force to the community at large?*

When: September 25, 2006 - 8:00AM to 4:30PM

Invitees: Chief Elected Officials or their representatives
Workforce Investment Board Chairs, Executive Directors and members
Career Center Directors and Senior Managers
Title I Administrators
State Workforce Development Partners

Where: Doubletree Hotel
5400 Computer Drive
Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

Centrally located - convenient to the Mass Pike, Route 495 and Route 9

Action

Required: Individuals planning to attend the conference must pre-register. To register, complete the attached REGISTRATION FORM and email or fax it to Anne Tainter [anne.tainter@state.ma.us] / FAX: 617 727-1090] **no later than Thursday, September 7, 2006.**

Inquiries: If you have questions regarding the content of the conference, please call Arleen Damon at 617 626-7102.

Attachments: Registration Form