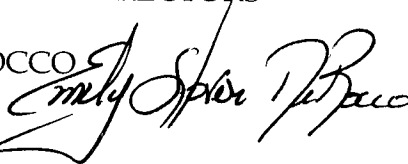


TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 1-06
	DATE July 5, 2006

TO: ALL STATE WORKFORCE AGENCY ADMINISTRATORS
ALL STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS
ALL STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
CHAIRS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

FROM: EMILY STOVER DeROCCO
Assistant Secretary



SUBJECT: Announce National Business Learning Partnership Opportunity

1. **Purpose.** To invite statements of interest and describe the goals of the second round of a national peer-to-peer technical assistance and training project, the National Business Learning Partnership.
2. **Background.** In 2003, the Employment and Training Administration started a national peer-to-peer mentoring project for the workforce investment system. The first round of the National Business Learning Partnership was a resoundingly successful collaborative effort among forty-four state and local workforce investment boards. Knowledge transfer between participating workforce investment boards resulted in system transition work such as workforce investment board restructuring and re-composition, building strategic partnerships, establishing business service units, and improving strategic business outreach. In addition, several case studies and technical assistance documents that were developed are available on the Workforce³ One Web site at www.workforce3one.org. Based on the great success of the first round, the Employment and Training Administration is pleased to announce this second round of the National Business Learning Partnership. The project will both build on the success of the first round and expand the project scope.
3. **Description.** Talent development is a key factor in our nation's economic competitiveness. The goal of the National Business Learning Partnership is to enhance regional and national competitive strength and improve labor market outcomes by engaging the workforce investment system in effective partnerships, fostering innovation, and integrating community strategies and resources to develop talent as a community asset. The National Business Learning Partnership uses a peer-to-peer learning approach to transform state and local workforce investment boards so they are truly a player in developing and implementing regional economic growth strategies. Workforce investment boards should be

facilitating innovation by integrating workforce and economic development with education at the regional level – where companies, workers, researchers, entrepreneurs, and governments come together to build and sustain strong economies and promote job growth.

Many states, local areas, and regions have made considerable progress in integrating talent and skills development into larger economic development strategies and in transforming their workforce development, economic development, and educational systems in order to be responsive to the needs of businesses and workers. The National Business Learning Partnership pairs local, regional, and state governance entities that have emerging practices with areas seeking assistance on particular issues. Through this peer-to-peer learning structure, workforce practitioners learn from one another and institutionalize cutting-edge practices across the system.

Workplans and approaches will vary from partnership to partnership, and specific responsibilities will be defined by participants within each partnership. Participants must commit to attendance at both in-person and virtual meetings with partners according to the workplan developed. In addition, the partnerships will develop products capturing their progress and will report on activities.

4. **Application Information.** Applicants must be a local workforce investment board, state workforce investment board, or workforce and economic development-focused entity. Of particular interest are boards and organizations which oversee workforce and economic development via a business-led approach. Partnerships that exist across geographic or political boundaries are encouraged to apply. Projects will focus on one of four issue areas, and applicants are requested to indicate an interest in learning about or expertise in one or more of these areas:

- Talent Development Strategies Driving Regional Economic Competitiveness
- Strong and Sustained Strategic Regional Partnerships
- Workforce Information for Performance and Strategic Planning
- Leveraged Resources and Solutions-Based Strategies

Selections will be made from applicants across the country and the partnerships will be formed based on complementary experiences of participants. ETA will support the cost of participation in the partnerships, including attendance at an initial meeting and subsequent site visits. Selection of participants in the National Business Learning Partnership will be made using a competitive process.

Based on the information included in an Expression of Interest, successful applicants will be chosen for follow-up interviews. Please respond with an Expression of

Interest to the ETA Regional Office contact listed below no later than August 21, 2006. Final selections will be announced September 30, 2006. The Expression of Interest template and application information may be found at <http://workforce3one.org/content/public/nblp/>.

5. **Inquiries.** To ask questions or discuss the initiative further, please contact your designated ETA Regional lead.

Region 1: MaryAnne Langton	Langton.Maryanne@dol.gov	(617) 788-0150
Region 2: April Hunt	Hunt.april@dol.gov	(215) 861-5242
Region 3: Darlene Stodolski	Stodolski.darlene@dol.gov	(404) 302-5371
Region 4: Ray Gonzales	Gonzales.raymond@dol.gov	(214) 767-2154 x241
Region 5: John Scott	Scott.john@dol.gov	(312) 596-5507
Region 6 Diane Walton	Walton.diane@dol.gov	(415) 975 4639