

**Special points of interest:**

- *Tools for America's Job Seekers Challenge*
- *Disability Program Navigator for Tri-County Area*
- *NORWESCAP Honored by NJ & National Groups*

## Tools for America's Job Seekers Challenge

### MSW WIB & ETS Participate in US DOL Initiative

**T**he Morris-Sussex-Warren Workforce Investment Board and Employment & Training Services recently took part in the *Tools for America's Job Seekers Challenge*, an initiative of the U.S. Department of Labor (US DOL) in which stakeholders in the workforce development system were asked to help find the best online tools for job seekers.

During January, more than 16,000 members of the public voted for tools and left comments. The job tools postings can be found at: [www.careeronestop.org/jobseekertools](http://www.careeronestop.org/jobseekertools). Government agencies, private companies, nonprofit organizations and many other entities came together to make the project a success.

The initiative consisted of three phases:

**Phase 1.** Entrepreneurs and organizations submitted on-line job search and career advancement tools to help develop an online inventory. Although US DOL was primarily interested in identifying free tools for America's job seekers, tools with a fee could be submitted as long as the submitter provided a short-term demo site or other platform that allowed the tools to be reviewed free of charge in Phase 2 of the Challenge. US DOL accepted submissions from businesses and entrepreneurs, nonprofit organizations, and state and local workforce agencies.

**Phase 2.** US DOL invited workforce development professionals and job seekers to "test-drive" the tools

and recommend those they found useful. Reviewers were encouraged to recommend tools based on:

- How effective the tool is in providing accurate results, such as how well the tool identifies jobs available in the target labor market;
- How efficient the tool is in completing job search and/or career advancement tasks in a reasonable amount of time; and
- User satisfaction.

Reviewers could recommend as many tools as they wanted, and were encouraged to comment on the tools to provide US DOL with more feedback.

**Phase 3.** US DOL/ETA published the top tools in each category at [www.careeronestop.org/jobseekertools](http://www.careeronestop.org/jobseekertools) to help workforce system leaders decide which tools to make available through One-Stop Career Centers, state job banks, and other on-line resources.

The categories are:

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## Sussex County “Champions for Charity” Project

WIB Member **Carol Novrit**, Division Director of the Sussex County Divisions of Social Services and Transit, noted the increased demand for food has created a tremendous challenge for Social Services to maintain an adequate supply for those in need.

Sussex County Freeholder Director Jeffrey Parrott suggested expanding the basic concept of a food drive into a synchronized system in which local school districts collect food on a permanent rotational monthly basis.

The first school to participate in the project was Pope John XXIII Regional High School. To date, Sparta High School leads the competition with 19,930 pounds of food raised. A trophy will be given to

the winning school at the end of the school year.

While bringing in more food, the students learn firsthand how to build a better future. Freeholder Parrott remarked, “We’re not building monuments. We’re not erecting statues. We are just taking an approach of people helping people in a very difficult economy. This pilot program can be emulated in other places recognizing that government can lend a helping hand but doesn’t have to be the answer to all problems.” Carol noted that Freeholder Director Parrott’s idea to involve youth and school districts is an ingenious yet simple approach toward solving a serious problem, and promotes a positive connection between young people and their communities.



Next WIB  
Open Meeting:

May 27

*Save the Date!*

## Phillipsburg Bus Routes Saved

Phillipsburg Bus Routes 890 and 891 provide public shuttle bus service in Phillipsburg, Lopatcong and Pohatcong.

WIB Member **Karen Kubert**, Director of the Warren County Department of Human Services, reported these services were slated to be discontinued May 1. However, due to the combined advocacy efforts of Warren County’s Freeholder Angelo Accetturo and Planning Board, and Phillipsburg Mayor Harry Wyant, the County’s Board of Chosen Freeholders wrote NJ Transit, requesting that they not eliminate the routes. On March 26,

approximately 30 Warren County residents, including Delaware River Coach passengers, attended a public hearing. Pleas were made to retain the service; the areas of most concern for the riders were affordable transportation to work and access to medical appointments.

During NJ Transit’s April 14 Board meeting, it was recommended that services be reduced, rather than discontinued. While the actual level of reduction is not yet known, the NJ Transit website states that Saturday services will be discontinued and weekday service hours will be reduced.

## Maggie Peters Named EDP

Congratulations to WIB Member **Maggie Peters**, Executive Director of Morris County Economic Development Corporation, who was awarded the *Economic Development Professional* (EDP) designation by the Northeastern Economic Developers Association.

This designation is awarded to professionals working in economic development who have met the following requirements:

- A minimum of three years of work experience actively engaged in economic development;
- Documented completion of comprehensive basic-level coursework encompassing a wide range of skills, including Business Retention & Expansion, Business Finance, Marketing & Business Attraction, Real Estate, and Community & Neighborhood Development; and
- Documented advanced-level education in at least three separate topics of importance to economic development work, through formal training and/or direct experience.

## Disability Program Navigator

*Will Assist Jobseekers and Employers in Tri-County Area*

**O**lga Burns, WIB Member and Director of Morris-Sussex-Warren Employment & Training Services, recently announced that Donna Buchanan started as Disability Program Navigator (DPN) for the tri-county area in early April.

The scope of the Disability Program Navigator (DPN, or Navigator) responsibilities is broad and extensive, including service as a resource to the One-Stop Career Center (OSCC) system and, as necessary, working in tandem with OSCC staff to provide services to individuals with disabilities who seek information about employment, including Social Security work incentives.

In New Jersey's DPN Initiative, the integrated services model of the OSCC is addressed through the provision of expanded services to target groups usually served by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and by Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVRS) staff. Local Navigators continue to facilitate these targeted program services while expanding the availability of services to other people with disabilities.

The duties of the DPN, as per the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, follow:

"The Navigator serves as an expert on workforce development issues and policies impacting individuals with disabilities who are seeking employment, skill development, job retention assistance, or career advancement through the OSCC system (including access to WIA training which is typically underutilized for individuals with disabilities). The Navigator develops linkages and collaborates on an



ongoing basis with employers either individually or through their business relations team (as applicable in the state or local area) to facilitate job placements for individuals with disabilities and serves as a resource on SSA's work incentive and employment support programs.

Using a "consumer choice" model, the Navigator will, as necessary, work in tandem with case management/OSCC staff to provide services to individuals with disabilities, including SSI and SSDI beneficiaries. When working with youth, the Navigator will be available and prepared to work in tandem with case management/OSCC staff to assist these customers in accessing the individualized supports (including Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandated special education and related services) needed to successfully transition to adulthood."

We wish Donna good luck and success in her new position.

*The Morris Sussex Warren Workforce Investment Board is an equal opportunity employer with equal opportunity programs.*

*Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.*

### Newsletter Submissions

*Contact WIB Word Editor  
Sallie Sullivan at:*

**ssullivan@co.morris.nj.us**

## NORWESCAP Honored

### Receives New Jersey and National Recognition

WIB Member **Terry Newhard**, Executive Director of NORWESCAP (Northwest New Jersey Community Action Program), shared recent news of statewide and national recognition of NORWESCAP.

#### 2010 NJBIZ NON-PROFIT INNOVATION

In February, NORWESCAP was named in the top 15 nonprofits in New Jersey by NJBIZ, and received the *2010 NJBIZ Non-Profit Innovation Award for Financial Growth and Sustainability*. Terry expressed his excitement at being recognized by the business sector for NORWESCAP's work and that of the nonprofit community "in making the most out of every dollar and thinking creatively about our mission."

The NJBIZ article announcing the award showcased NORWESCAP's innovative job-training program, the *Arthur & Friends Greenhouse Project*. NJBIZ mentioned how, through the program, "disabled and disadvantaged residents of Sussex County are learning how to plant, tend, harvest and sell produce grown hydroponically, leading to job opportunities in agriculture, management and sales."

#### WIB Officers and Staff

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#### TOP 50 BEST PLACES TO WORK IN THE US

More recently, NORWESCAP was recognized as one of the top 50 nonprofits to work for in the U.S. in 2010, as rated by *The Non-Profit Times*, the leading business publication for nonprofit management.

NORWESCAP was ranked the 44<sup>th</sup> Best Nonprofit to work for across the country and 26<sup>th</sup> in the medium group of employers with 25 to 249 employees.

Terry said, "This is truly a great honor for NORWESCAP and all of our employees. The criteria measured included feedback directly from our staff members, and this award is a testament to the success of our workplace culture focused on service. We are very proud of this recognition."

The full NJBIZ report is available at: <http://www.pageturnpro.com/NJBIZ/11601-Nonprofit-Innovation-Awards--2010/index.html#/6>

The full NonProfit Times report is available at: [http://www.nptimes.com/10Apr/NPTBestPlaces2010\(web\).pdf](http://www.nptimes.com/10Apr/NPTBestPlaces2010(web).pdf)

"He who wishes to secure the good of others has already secured his own."

- Confucius

#### Tools for America's Job Seekers

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**General Job Boards** provide nationwide job listings for the public.

**Niche Job Boards** are targeted to specific types of job seekers, occupations, or locations.

**Career Planning Tools** are aimed at individuals who are switching careers, upgrading skills, or entering the workforce.

**Career Exploration Tools** include tools for assessment tests, career coaching, industry exploration, counseling services, and more.

**Social Media Job Search** uses social media to list online job postings and other related items.

**Other Tools** include tools for interview prep, labor market information, training grants, and more.