

INDUSTRY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

A Rhode Island-Wide Initiative

Overview

The Rhode Island Industry Skills Development Initiative will allow our state to take an innovative, 21st-century approach in addressing the short- and long-term labor market needs of high-growth, high-wage industries. It is an employer-driven initiative designed to build the capacity and increase the employable skills of Rhode Island's workforce. Activities include development and delivery of industry-designed training, career awareness and industry "greenhouses" for the emerging workforce.

The \$3.3 million initiative, funded by the Governor's Workforce Board Rhode Island, is a collaboration of key workforce agencies within the state—the Governor's Workforce Board RI, the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston, netWORKri and the RI Department of Labor and Training.

In August 2008, four industry partnerships signed with the local workforce investment boards to implement the Industry Skill Development Initiative: RI Marine Trades Association, Providence Plan, Tech Collective and the RI Hospitality Association Education Foundation. As part of this initiative, these industry partners will have an active presence in the netWORKri one-stop career centers in Providence, Pawtucket, Woonsocket and West Warwick in order to assist with job matching and career awareness among job seekers.

These partners have also pledged to collaborate on identifying short-term training opportunities to grow targeted, industry-specific skills in RI's workforce. In addition to adults, they will be working with youth, ages 14-24, to build work-readiness skills and generate interest in high-growth, high-demand careers in their industries.

For the past two years these industry partners have been working with the Governor's Workforce Board to identify the skills needed to fill vacant positions in their industry. These skill gap studies are available online at www.rihric.com under the Industry Partners link.

In addition, the Industry Skill Development Initiative recently invested \$1 million in upgrading technology in the one-stop centers to improve public access to the online job search and labor market information.

THE \$3.3-MILLION INDUSTRY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE INCLUDES:

- **\$750,000** IN INDUSTRY-SANCTIONED TRAINING FOR **400** INCUMBENT AND NEW WORKERS IN TARGETED HIGH-GROWTH, HIGH-WAGE INDUSTRIES; ADDITIONAL INDUSTRY-SANCTIONED TRAINING AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THROUGH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT FUNDS
- **\$850,000** IN INDUSTRY PARTNER CONTRACTS TO BUILD CAREER AWARENESS PROGRAMS AMONG EXISTING WORKERS AND THE EMERGING WORKFORCE, INCLUDING INDUSTRY "GREENHOUSES" TO NURTURE THE NEXT GENERATION OF WORKERS THROUGH CAREER EXPLORATION, INTERNSHIP AND MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES
- **\$1 MILLION** INVESTMENT IN UPDATED TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PUBLIC TO CONDUCT JOB SEARCHES AND CAREER RESEARCH



For more information, contact the Governor's Workforce Board Rhode Island at 401-462-8865 or visit www.rihric.com. (TDD: 401-462-8806)