

Metro North
REB Connections

A Publication of the Metro North Regional Employment Board

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Metro North STEM Network Event Draws Over 100 Professionals



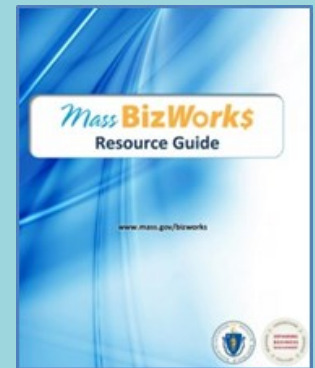
With a shared drive to encourage youth to explore STEM careers, nearly 100 Metro North leaders from business, education, and community-based organizations attended the Metro North STEM Network’s “Bridging the Workforce Gap” STEM Forum this year. Held at the Microsoft Research and Development Center in Cambridge, MA, the event was kicked off with a welcome address by Paul Richard of the Warner Babcock Institute for Green Chemistry, followed by opening remarks by Cheryl Scott, Director of the Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board. Ben Fersenheim, Senior Software Engineer at Microsoft, then gave an engaging presentation that addressed the importance and relevance of STEM education today, and REB Associate Director Meelynn Wong provided an overview of labor market information in the Metro North Region as it pertains to STEM careers. The second half of the event consisted of a series of roundtable discussions, each facilitated by a knowledgeable and enthusiastic industry professional representing one of the following industries: Healthcare, Information Technology, Life Sciences, Advanced Manufacturing, and Engineering. Overall the event was a great success, as participants stated they felt they learned quite a bit about the STEM workforce opportunities in the region, and were looking forward to sharing that information with their students and constituents. The event was developed in large part with guidance and support from the Metro North STEM Network.

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REB Receives Major National Emergency Grant

The REB is pleased to announce that it has been awarded an MN4 Rapid Response/National Emergency Grant for in the amount of \$876,300 from the U.S. Department of Labor. Funding will support case management services for approximately 120 workers who have been laid off from four Metro North companies. The grant will fund a wide range of re-employment services that include: career coaching, resume preparation and interviewing skills development.

**Hot off the Press!
 MA BizWorks
 Resource Guide for
 Employers**



As part of a new federal initiative, the MA Department of Career Services, through its BizWorks program, has recently published a resource guide for employers. Entitled “The Massachusetts BizWorks Resources Guide,” the publication is designed to help expand business engagement throughout the state by informing employers of the wide range of services and programs that are available to them. To download the Guide and Resource Card, please visit: www.mass.gov/bizworks.

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Continued...

REB Connections, cont'd.

REB Awarded Healthcare Workforce Transformation Fund Planning Grant

The Metro North REB is pleased to announce that it is one of 51 Massachusetts-based organizations to be awarded a Planning Grant through the Health Care Workforce Transformation Fund (HCWTF). These grants, which total close to \$2M, are being awarded by the Patrick Administration. They will support organizations across the state in their efforts to implement Massachusetts Cost-Containment Act (Chapter 224) – legislation that will likely have a significant impact on the healthcare industry in the years ahead. The grant is being administered by the Commonwealth Corporation. Soon after Chapter 224 was enacted in 2012, the Metro North Healthcare Partnership -- a consortium of healthcare organizations, community colleges, and the Metro North career centers -- began to focus its agenda on understanding how this new legislation will affect the healthcare workforce in the short- and long-term. Through much discussion and collaboration with other industry experts, the partnership determined that, moving forward, it is critical that healthcare workers are trained in delivering care within models that emphasize teamwork and coordination among workers, and that engage patients in managing their own conditions. The \$32,500 grant will enable the Metro North Healthcare Partnership to identify the roles of frontline healthcare workers, assess the skill gaps, and identify needs for training healthcare workers in emerging models of delivery.

First Student Cohort in Advanced Manufacturing Training Program Receives Certificates from Middlesex Community College



On Wednesday, May 28, the first of three student cohorts to complete the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program received certificates in machining and electronics from Middlesex Community College. This unique program is funded by a Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund grant that was awarded to the North Shore Workforce Investment Board in 2012. The grant supports the Northeast Advanced Manufacturing Consortium, a collaboration of education and workforce organizations whose aim is to help the advanced manufacturing industry in Northeastern Massachusetts become more globally competitive by addressing critical workforce training needs. The program consists of three student cohorts (reaching a total of about 70 students), each of which receives training in manufacturing practices and technology at one of three community

colleges: Middlesex Community College (MCC); Northern Essex Community College (NECC); and North Shore Community College (NSCC). The second cycle of the program, held at NECC, is now in progress. NAMC is also working to connect graduates with potential employers -- a key component of the program. As of July 15, out of the 24 students who received certificates from MCC, 18 have obtained employment.

New REB Committee Focuses on Ensuring Success with Adult Basic Education (ABE) Programs

In response to an increasing need to provide opportunities and support for ABE students and graduates to progress into post-secondary programs, and ultimately satisfying and sustainable careers, the REB is pleased to announce that it has established the Adult Basic Education Transitions to College and Careers (ABETCC) Committee. Led by committee chair Mina Reddy, Director of the Community Learning Center in Cambridge, membership is comprised of leaders in institutions of higher education, adult basic education providers, community-based organizations, and the Metro North REB and One-Stop Career Centers, Career Source and The Career Place. Launched this past spring, the committee plans to focus on identifying barriers and support, and exploring new models that will ensure successful college and career pathways for ABE program students and graduates.