

Metro North REB Connections

A Publication of the Metro North Regional Employment Board

Spring 2012

New REB executive director selected



The REB Search Committee is delighted to announce that Linda Bass, former REB Senior Associate Director, has been selected as the REB's new Executive Director. Susan Walsh, REB Executive Committee Member and Director of the Cambridge Office of Workforce Development commented, "Bass brings to the position over 25 years of leadership in workforce development in Massachusetts, an in-depth understanding of the system, extraordinary analytical abilities, and a passion and energy that has long been known to her colleagues throughout the state." As she settles into her new role, Bass will focus on strategic planning, working closely with the Board, employer industry groups, training providers/community colleges, and others to develop innovative solutions to addressing current workforce challenges. "As a hub for life sciences, information technology, higher education and healthcare, Metro North is a particularly exciting region for this work. I am looking forward to cultivating the partnerships and teams necessary to advance the REB's mission of meeting the workforce needs of our region's employers and residents," said Bass.

Malden initiative engages employers, students



Malden Team Members, April 2012

Representatives from a broad spectrum of agencies have joined forces to establish a Malden employer engagement initiative — referred to as the "Malden Team" — with the goal of supporting workforce-related programming for youth in Malden. The Team represents the Metro North Youth Council and Career Centers (Career Source and The Career Place), Malden High School, local community organizations, WIA-funded programs, and the statewide Connecting Activities and MassGrad programs. The initiative's overarching goal is to align the needs of employers with those of students through promoting employer engagement in and around the city of Malden. This past April, the initiative kicked off with a career fair at Malden High School. Representatives from 40 local businesses and agencies talked with students about a wide range of career choices, and the pathways necessary to enter into, and excel in, specific careers. REB Associate Director Priscilla Golding played a key role in initiating and coordinating the event. Information about future Malden Team programs and activities will be posted on www.mnreb.org.

Job Openings

Associate Director, Metro North REB

The REB is seeking an Associate Director to fulfill a broad range of workforce development functions, including: program design, grant-writing, and managing grants; working with employers, industry groups, training providers, and funding sources; facilitating meetings/public speaking; budgeting, data analysis, and performing evaluations/preparing reports. Must have strong communication and technical skills. For detailed job description, see <http://mnreb.org/REB.php>. \$70k+, with great benefits. Send resume and cover letter to info@mnreb.org. No calls please. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Director, HLS-CCR

The Executive Committee of the Boston Skilled Careers in Life Sciences (SCILS) Initiative is seeking a Director of the Metro Boston Healthcare and Life Science Career Center Resource (HLS-CCR). The Director will create this new regional resource, supervise its staff, and lead efforts to support the SCILS Initiative to make a significant impact on the region's workforce. For more information please visit: <http://mnreb.org/REB.php>. Equal Opportunity Employer.

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REB Connections, cont'd.

SCILS Initiative receives \$5M to build life sciences workforce

The Boston Skilled Careers in Life Sciences (SCILS) Initiative has recently been awarded \$5M by the USDOL to support its mission to grow and maintain a life sciences workforce in the state. Led by City of Boston Jobs and Community Services, the initiative will provide residents in more than 80 cities and towns in and around Boston with customized occupational training for careers as Biological Technicians, Medical Lab Technicians and Medical Lab Technologists. Participants in the program will also receive career counseling and outreach services, as well as internship opportunities. In addition to the Metro North REB and City of Boston Jobs and Community Services, SCILS is being implemented in collaboration with the Metro South/West and South Shore workforce regions. Current training partners include Boston University, Quincy College, and the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. The Executive Committee of the Initiative is currently seeking to fill the position of Director of the Metro Boston Life Science and Healthcare Career Center Resource (HLS-CCR). For more information please see "Job Openings" on page 1.

Call for Science Fair Judges!

Massachusetts State Science & Engineering Fair (www.massscifair.com) — a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) charitable organization founded in 1949 to advance science literacy and inspire new generations of science and engineering leaders — is looking for judges. Please consider being a member of the distinguished judging panel at the 2012 State Science & Engineering Fair, statewide Middle School division. If you have received a four-year college degree in a science or technology subject and work in a related field, you are eligible to judge and may register online. Just a few hours of your time will help to encourage young people in their quest for excellence in science and technology. Details: Saturday, June 2, 2012 at Worcester Technical High School. Judging will be held from 8:30am-noon. If you are interested please send an email to: middleschool@scifair.com.

REB Vice Chair awarded Medalla de Oro



The Metro North REB is pleased to announce that REB Vice Chair Antonio de la Serna was recently awarded the Medalla de Oro. This prestigious award, presented by MAES -- a society of Latino engineers and scientists -- recognizes individuals who "have demonstrated outstanding technical and educational innovation, have made significant contributions to science and/or engineering, have a long history of supporting the mission and vision of MAES as well as have personal involvement in the development, operation, and growth of MAES, its membership and chapters." As part of the award, Mr. de la Serna had the unique opportunity to present a scholarship to a college student in his name, to mark the beginning of a long-term mentoring relationship. For this honor, Mr. de la Serna selected Miguel Sanchez, a chemical engineering student at the University of California, Irvine.

Mr. de la Serna is a digital design engineer at Draper Laboratory, an independent, not-for-profit research and engineering organization dedicated to solving problems in the national interest. He is also founder and past president of the Greater Boston chapter of MAES, which performs STEM outreach from kindergarten to career. Mr. de la Serna is now the Region IV Vice President on the MAES National Board of Directors. To read more about Mr. de la Serna's efforts in STEM, as well as MAES, please visit: www.mymaes.org.