



# Highlights

July 2012-May 2013

## Biennial Employment & Training Plan

GWB produced the first-ever Biennial Employment & Training Plan for RI (FY2014 and FY2015) which provided an analysis of employer demand, workforce supply, skills gaps, funding and services in Rhode Island, as well as offering recommendations to:

- Strengthen employer partnerships
- Increase work readiness
- Expand career pathways
- Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the public workforce system

## Jobs Initiatives

GWB invested \$1M in short-term training and hiring incentives to enable unemployed workers to obtain employment through partnerships with Electric Boat, Tunstall/AMAC, Building Futures, Tech Collective, and the two local Workforce Investment Boards. To date, Tunstall has hired 54 new workers for its RI facility.

## Innovative Partnerships

GWB established a new funding initiative to support innovative partnerships between businesses and education and training providers that provide experiential learning, work readiness and occupational skills training to prepare 545 youth and unemployed adults for high-growth jobs and careers. Over 50 businesses partnered with the following grant recipients:

- Stepping Up: Nurse residency program
- Amos House: Culinary training
- Connecting for Children & Families: Culinary training
- Open Doors: Recycling and Information Technology
- Tech Collective: Information Technology
- RI Marine Trades Association: Marine trades
- NE Institute of Technology: Shipbuilding and manufacturing
- Hospice St. Antoine: Certified Nursing Assistants
- RI Hospital/Lifespan: Certified Nursing Assistants
- Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center: Direct service providers

## Employer Partnerships

GWB Employer Committee members gave presentations to numerous Chambers of Commerce, and hosted two Employer Outreach sessions, to raise awareness of the GWB and to solicit feedback related to the state's workforce development activities.

The GWB Employer Committee held its first Employer Advisory Group meeting with representatives from over 20 businesses, at which feedback was received about EmployRI, work-readiness, career and technical education, and the public workforce system. The next advisory group meeting will feature a presentation by Education Commissioner / GWB Board member Deborah Gist.

# Highlights, continued

## Incumbent Worker Training

GWB awarded \$1.4 million to 83 companies in annual Incumbent Worker Training grants. Fourteen grant recipients received bonus funding for providing youth summer jobs or school-year internships.

In 2013, GWB established a new \$500K fund for Express Grants, which provide up to \$5,000 in matching grants and are awarded on a rolling basis. As of May 1, 50 companies had contracts for approximately \$200,000.

## Adult Education

GWB continued to be the largest funding source of Adult Education programs in RI – enabling approximately 2,400 Rlers to improve their literacy and math skills, obtain their high school equivalency degrees, and prepare for college and careers.

## Youth

More than 1,300 summer jobs for youth were created through a \$1M investment from GWB and \$1M from the Department of Human Services. Each of the youth participated in work-readiness training.

YouthWORKS411 received \$450K from GWB to provide additional support to WIA-funded programs providing work-readiness, career exploration, work experience and academic support to 2,250 youth.

## Workforce Development System Improvement

GWB has supported the development and implementation of the federally-funded On-Ramps to Career Pathways grant to develop integrated funding and services – including work-readiness training, experiential learning and career pathways counseling – for clients of several state agencies.

GWB produced a streamlined Unified Workforce Expenditure and Program Report that provides a comprehensive picture of funding sources, purposes and outcomes for workforce development investments throughout the state.

GWB has also supported the development and implementation of federally-funded grants to CCRI and New England Institute of Technology.

GWB has led the planning process for a statewide internship promotion campaign to raise awareness of the value of internships for businesses, workers and students.

GWB has developed an implementation strategy for Governor Chafee's Work Immersion proposal which would provide nearly \$3M in matching funds for short-term, subsidized work experiences for college students and unemployed adults.

GWB leadership has presented to, and collaborated with, numerous public and private sector partners, including RI Public Expenditure Council, RI Workforce Alliance, RI Student Loan Authority, RI Partnership Project, RI Commodores, colleges and universities, RI College STEM Conference, RI House of Representatives, RI House Labor Committee, Providence Journal Publick Occurrences, and RI Foundation Make It Happen.

## Industry Partnerships

GWB Industry Partners in health care, hospitality, marine trades, construction, defense, information technology and biotechnology have expanded their efforts to develop career pathways, identify skills gaps, collaborate with youth and adult education programs, partner with higher education, prepare unemployed workers for jobs, and expand internships, apprenticeships, and other experiential learning opportunities to prepare workers with the skills that employers need.

GWB reestablished a Manufacturing Industry Partnership in recognition of the continuing importance of Rhode Island's manufacturing sector. A manufacturing skills gap study is underway.