

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Bergen Community College

Grantee: Bergen Community College

Industry Focus: Retail and Hospitality

Key Partners: Workforce Investment Systems of Bergen, Hudson, and Passaic Counties; Meadowlands Xanadu; Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce; Hire Disability Solutions, LLC; Teaneck Public Schools; Bergen County Technical Schools and Bergen County Special Services School District; Bergen County Faith and Community-Based Initiative; and the Northern New Jersey Disabilities Network.

Grant Amount: \$2,295,497

Leveraged Amount: \$4,313,342

Location of Grant Activities: Northern New Jersey

Challenge: Retail is New Jersey's largest private industry, generating \$27 billion in sales; in 2007 the New Jersey retail industry employed over 470,000 workers. Between 2002 and 2012, the hospitality industry is projected to add 1.6 million additional new jobs in New Jersey, an increase of 16 percent. Key industry challenges include blockages in the training and education pipeline to retail and hospitality industry employment and the lack of a coordinated effective training curriculum that provides a pathway to retail management careers.

Addressing the Challenge: The North New Jersey Retail, Hospitality, and Entertainment Pathway project will expand retail and hospitality curricula and increase training programs within these industries. The project will also strengthen and extend career pathways to obtain training, education, and supportive and transitional services needed to secure employment and advance on the job. Training and education will provide preparation from basic skills and entry level readiness to supervisory and management development to higher and continuing education. The project will focus on out-of-school youth and adults who are unemployed; incumbent workers who are underemployed or seeking career development; young people transitioning out of school into jobs, training, and further education; in-school youth working their way through pathways to careers and independent living; and populations underrepresented in the workforce.

Projected Outcomes:

- 500 participants will be enrolled in the programs.
- 78 percent of participants that complete education/training activities will enter employment.
- 265 participants will complete education/training activities and receive a degree/certificate.
- 240 participants that complete training will enter training-related employment.

