

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 26-06
	DATE March 27, 2007

TO: ALL STATE WORKFORCE AGENCY ADMINISTRATORS
 ALL STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS
 ALL STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD CHAIRS
 AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

FROM: EMILY STOVER DeROCCO /s/
 Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: *Workforce Innovations 2007*

1. Purpose. To announce *Workforce Innovations 2007* to be held at the Kansas City, Missouri, Convention Center, July 17 – 19, 2007.

2. Background. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration and co-sponsored by the American Society for Training & Development, *Workforce Innovations* is the premier annual conference for local, state and national workforce, business, education, and economic development leaders. The conference provides an important opportunity to share experiences and challenges in building a highly skilled and adaptable workforce. More than 3,000 participants are expected to attend.

3. Conference Theme, Pathways and Learning Labs. This year’s theme, *Beyond Boundaries*, will explore ways in which regional partners can work together and innovate to break down boundaries – be they historical, geographical, political, or financial – to create a competitive workforce advantage. Echoing the goals of ETA’s current Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) initiative, the conference will address in depth the necessity for regional partners to work collaboratively to develop the talent of their workers and for the workforce system to become the catalyst for an educated and prepared workforce.

The 2007 Learning Labs will feature three pathways, each focusing on particular aspects of the workforce system that relate to you. Follow one pathway throughout the conference or pick and choose sessions to create your own, personalized pathway. The *Workforce Innovations 2007* pathways are:

- *Regional Economic Competitiveness*: Introductory and advanced sessions on growing and sustaining critical partnerships between talent development and regional economic development
- *Workforce System Transformation*: The latest thinking on workforce system transformation and examples of where exciting and successful transformations are taking place
- *Lifelong Talent Development*: Multiple sessions that provide insight on access to post-secondary education, training and education for at-risk youth, Career Advancement

Accounts, apprenticeships in non-traditional industries, and state-of-the-art talent development such as technology-based learning

Interwoven throughout are opportunities to discuss important and relevant issues to you – youth employment, rural economies, employer relations, and more. Here's a sampling of what's in store:

- *YouthWorks!*: Join in a dialogue between state and local youth policy program leaders who serve our most at-risk youth and representatives of nationally-recognized youth development programs.
- *Apprenticeship Beyond Boundaries*: Explore the role of apprenticeship in building regional economies. Sessions will highlight integration between apprenticeships and the workforce system, examine apprenticeship as a valuable post secondary educational option, and showcase the program's use of technology-based learning. Join us in celebrating the Apprenticeship Program's 70th Anniversary!
- *Employer Issues*: Experience sessions packed with information and speakers of special interest to employers and human resource professionals on Employer Day, Wednesday, July 18th
- *Rural Economies*: Learn about distance learning and rural connectivity to talent development, creating and growing rural businesses, entrepreneurship in a rural context, and identifying and connecting rural leadership
- *Workforce Leadership*: Participate in a Town Hall discussion and topical Learning Labs focused on current legislative, policy, and regulatory issues on Thursday afternoon, July 19th

4. Additional Conference Features. To further enhance the conference experience, other features already under development include:

- Opportunities to learn from the accomplishments of Recognition of Excellence honorees (See TEN 22-06);
- Educational off-site tours to mind-expanding venues, including visits to the Harley Davidson plant, the National Academy of Railroad Sciences, the Independence Mall Educational Resource Center, and the Stowers Institute for Medical Research;
- A vibrant "Bridge to Beyond" exhibit hall with more than 100 exhibitors demonstrating the latest technologies, tools and systems and a showcase featuring engaging examples of Talent Development for the Future;
- A menu of pre-conference events to enhance your conference experience; and
- A grand "Regional Rhythms" reception at the American Jazz Museum/Negro Leagues Baseball Museum located in Kansas City's historic 18th & Vine district.

5. Registration. On-line conference and housing registration are now available at www.WorkforceInnovations.org. Be sure to register early in order to take advantage of the early-bird discounted registration fee. A one-day only registration option is also available.

6. Getting the Word Out. In addition to planning to attend Workforce Innovations 2007 yourself, we would appreciate your assistance in letting your colleagues know about the opportunities afforded by this conference. Following are some suggestions for helping us publicize the conference:

- Forward this information to appropriate staff and colleagues, your Workforce Investment Act partners, including your business, education and economic development associates, Workforce Investment Board members, and interested employers.
- Join the Workforce Innovations 2007 e-mail list (www.WorkforceInnovations.org/emailupdates.cfm) to receive conference updates as speakers and learning sessions are confirmed. Encourage your colleagues to sign up as well.
- Highlight Workforce Innovations in any speeches or presentations you give over the next few months.
- Distribute Workforce Innovations materials at appropriate upcoming conferences or meetings. You may request Workforce Innovations materials through your ETA regional office or by contacting conference staff at 202-693-3880 or info@workforceinnovations.org.
- Include a link to the Workforce Innovations 2007 web site on your web site. Link instructions are found at <http://www.workforceinnovations.org/downloads.cfm>.

7. Conference Exhibitors. Consider exhibiting at the conference and/or identify other potential exhibitors you would like to see in our “Bridge to Beyond” exhibit hall. Workforce Innovations provides a valuable opportunity to share your program’s accomplishments with your peers. All exhibit inquiries and suggestions should be directed to conference exhibit management by phone at 410-997-0763 or e-mail at wi@epponline.com.

8. Conference Volunteers. If you or any of your colleagues planning to attend Workforce Innovations are interested in giving a small amount of your time to serve as a conference volunteer, please so indicate on your registration form and/or contact conference staff at 202-693-3880 or e-mail (info@workforceinnovations.org).

9. Inquiries. Questions about Workforce Innovations 2006 should be directed to your ETA Regional Office, or to conference staff by phone at 202-693-3952 or by e-mail at info@workforceinnovations.org.