

# WIB Works

December 2008 The Quarterly Newsletter of the Monmouth County Workforce Investment Board Volume 12 Issue 4

## Alumni Awards Highlights



Alumni Awards recipients, Monmouth County WIB officers and One-Stop Center administrators share a moment before the start of the awards program.



Above, Mr. & Mrs. Odom pose with graduates of the Long Branch Out-of-School Work Study Program. MAST, left, stands at ready to present the colors during the ceremony.



The Monmouth County Workforce Investment Board held its 17th Annual Alumni Awards on Oct. 21, 2008, at the Sheraton Eatontown. Approximately 200 people attended the ceremony, which honored 24 people who took part in programs administered through the Monmouth County One-Stop Career Centers and are now gainfully employed.

The event was sponsored by Jersey Central Power & Light Company, Monmouth County Office of Economic Development & Tourism, Brookdale Community College, CentraState Medical Center, Chenega Technology Services Corporation, AcuteCare Health Systems, Advantage Career Institute, Engineering & Professional Services Inc., Kathy & Bob Weir, Monmouth-Ocean Counties Central Labor Council, New Jersey Natural Gas Company, RELMprint, Inc., Sun National Bank, Patricia Carlesimo, Literacy Volunteers of Monmouth County and LADACIN.



Monmouth County Freeholder John D'Amico speaks as Freeholder Barbara McMorrow looks on.

### Inside This Issue

Chairman's Message  
A story of success  
WIB Mission Statement

Page 2  
Page 3  
Page 4

## A Message from the Chair ...



### 2008 in Review

**T**he year 2008 has been one of contrasts. We suffered severe funding cuts in

the same year of record increases in the numbers of unemployed people visiting the One Stop. Because of these funding cuts the One Stop was also forced to layoff personnel. In spite of that, services continue to be provided and we made some important accomplishments. Some of the highlights are listed here.

**January** - The USDOL issued a Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) that referenced the original Home Based Distance Learning Program administered by Monmouth County and cited our program as evidence that individuals with little previous experience in technology can master the use of computers, on-line learning technology and the Internet when they are provided with technical assistance and an incentive to learn.

**February** - WIB members and staff attended National Association of

Workforce Boards (NAWB) conference held annually in Washington, D.C.

This provided the opportunity to see and hear how other WIBs do business.

**March** - The Monmouth County One Stop Operator, Carolyn Ellington was recognized with the Wilbur Ray Government Services Award at the annual dinner sponsored by Brookdale Community College.

**April** - 260 people attended the annual WIB Partnership Awards dinner at Gibbs Hall, Fort Monmouth allowing the WIB to raise \$10,000 for the Kathi Brady Memorial Scholarship Fund at Brookdale Community College.

**April** - The WIB's Services to People with Disabilities Committee held its 2nd annual Job Fair and Resource Expo for persons with disabilities on April 30th. Thirty vendors and well more than 100 job seekers participated.

**May** - 13 participants in the Monmouth County Home Based Distance Learning Program attended the graduation ceremony and received their certificates. Monmouth County Freeholder Barbara McMorrow congratulated the graduates.

**June** - Ernie Parspecie, our LWD Business Services Representative approached the WIB about the possibility of forming a partnership to

sponsor a large job fair for the Jersey Shore Premium Outlets set to open in November. Planning began and a partnership was formed that included the Monmouth County WIB and One Stop, the NJDLWD, the City of Asbury Park and the Chelsea Property Group.

**July** - The Monmouth County One-Stop Career Center held an Open House in the NEW offices at 145 Wyckoff Rd., Eatontown. Over 100 people attended.

**September** - Over 3,000 job seekers visited Convention Hall in the hopes of securing employment at the new *Jersey Shore Premium Outlets*. 93 vendors were on hand accepting applications and scheduling interviews for 1,000 jobs.

**October** - The Alumni Awards Luncheon honored 24 successful program participants.

**November** - The WIB formed a special ad hoc committee and began the process of developing a new 5 year strategic plan

**December** - WIB members and staff attended the Governor's Conference on Workforce Development

Thank you to all of the members of the WIB who have volunteered their time and talents in these and many other endeavors.

We will continue to hope that 2009 will bring recognition of the need for investment in workforce development and the funding that will allow us to respond effectively to the unemployed people seeking assistance. Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year!

### WIB OFFICERS

John L. Booth  
WIB Chairman

Wyatt Earp  
WIB Vice-Chairman

Stephen C. Hornik  
Violeta Peters  
WIB Trustee

Kathleen M. Weir  
WIB Executive Director

### MEMBERS

Ambar Abelar  
Kay Amoroso  
Bill Atkins  
Georgia Berry  
Jack Randall Bishop  
John Brown  
Patricia Carlesimo  
Robert Connolly  
Jean A. Coomber  
Pamela d'Emery  
Beatrice M. Duffy  
Kenneth Duncan  
Carolyn Ellington  
Joseph M. Ferraina  
John E. Gagliano  
Stephen C. Hornik

Frances Keane  
Carole Knopp Morris  
Linda Levinsohn  
Carl V. Lillvik  
Karl Lorch  
Dr. Brian McAndrew  
Joe W. Mullins  
Barbara Nymick  
William L. Phillips  
Frank Preston  
Susan Rakoci  
Jeff Schwartz  
John Shea  
Dr. Webster Trammell  
Benjamin Waldron

## USDOL Awards \$3M for Fort Monmouth Workers

The United States Department of Labor (USDOL) has granted the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD) a modification to their National Emergency Grant for Fort Monmouth that will provide an additional \$3 million for employee training and career exploration services. This grant will provide funds for retraining beginning 24 months before the close of the Fort. Part of the money will help plan a Technology Center that will be designed to allow some of the highly-skilled former Fort Monmouth workers and contractors to remain employed in New Jersey. It is hoped that the Technology Center will encourage the growth of private industry in an attempt to replace lost jobs.

The WIB released an RFP in Sep-

tember 2007 and ultimately awarded a contract to ESOP Advisors, Inc. to develop a plan for a reconstitution of a part of the workforce at the Fort with the goal of retaining some of the high skilled wage employees. That plan provided the foundation for what has evolved into this Technology Center. After negotiations with the Army, LWD released a request for letter of intent for a non-profit corporation interested in setting up the Technology Center. We understand that the NJDLWD is close to identifying a winner/grant recipient.

In the interim, questions regarding retraining and skill development are being handled by career counselors and the One Stop Operator in the Monmouth County One-Stop Career Center. Please call (732) 683-8850.

## WIB welcomes new members in 2008

Three new members were appointed to the WIB by the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders during 2008. We are very pleased to welcome [Jack Randall Bishop](#), [Carol Knopp Morris](#) and [Karl Lorch](#).

[Randy Bishop](#) and a partner, Dan Margo, own and operate *The Melrose*, a Bed and Breakfast in Ocean Grove. In 2004, Randy was elected to the Neptune Township committee and currently serves as Mayor of Neptune Township. He is a member of the Ocean Grove Area Chamber of Commerce and was President of the Chamber for 11 years.

[Carol Knopp-Morris](#) is the Monmouth County Superintendent of Schools. Prior to that, she served for more than 20 years as Superintendent of Schools for the Manasquan Public School District. Ms. Morris was also Principal of Manasquan High School and was a teacher in the district as well. She is an active member of the New Jersey Association of School Administrators where she has held several offices including President. Carol is currently the Monmouth county Representative to the NJASA

Executive Committee and a Delegate to the board of the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission.

[Karl Lorch](#) is the Agency Sales Director of Jersey Shore Financial Group, an office of MetLife. Karl has 25 years of experience in the financial service field and is a Registered Securities Principal. He has been employed with MetLife since 1983. In addition to his involvement with the WIB, Karl is also active with the Monmouth County Boy Scouts.

The following reappointments were made: [Joe Mullins](#) of MITRE Corp., [Frances Keane](#) of CentraState Healthcare System, [Catherine Amoroso](#) of Literacy Volunteers of Monmouth County, [Linda Levinsohn](#) of RELM-print, [Ken Duncan](#) of Shore Tractor Trailer Training, Inc., [Wyatt Earp](#) of the IBEW, [John Gagliano](#) of Engineering and Professional Services, Inc., [John Booth](#) of Chenega Technology Services, Inc., [Barbara Nymick](#) of Sun National Bank, [Ambar Abelar](#), Attorney, [Robert Connolly](#) of BC Compliance Group, LLC, [Frank Preston](#) of Advantage Career Institute, [Violeta Peters](#) of AcuteCare Health System, and [Georgia Berry](#) of Check-Mate, Inc.

## *Disabled people work, just one example*

When Ryan was 18 years old, he was experiencing depression and abusing alcohol. While walking on a railroad track, he was hit by a train. He was a handsome young man at the time, an athlete, who was a senior in a Philadelphia high school. As a result of the accident, he experienced Traumatic Brain Injury, which resulted in cognitive deficits.

Two years later, he moved to New Jersey to reside with his uncle, who became his legal guardian. Ryan began treatment for his addiction and psychiatric help for his depression. He applied for help to the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) Neptune office. He was provided with tutoring by the DVRS teacher that enabled him to obtain his high school diploma.

DVRS also assisted him with driving lessons. He was very happy when he obtained his driver's license and proudly showed it to all the staff. He underwent vocational and psychological testing to determine an appropriate career choice. He was sponsored at Brookdale Community College, and graduated successfully with an Associates degree, three years later.

During his time at Brookdale, Ryan began working at part time jobs, and began to live independently from his uncle.

After graduating from Brookdale, Ryan transferred to Monmouth University. With special accommodations for note taking, and test taking he was able to complete his studies successfully.

Ryan graduated in May, 2007, with a Bachelors Degree in Education and Psychology. He is successfully employed full time as a Case Manager for a social service agency.

Thank you to WIB member, [Susan Rakoci](#), Manager of the Neptune office of the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

## MISSION AND OVERVIEW: THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

*The mission of the Monmouth County Workforce Investment Board is to plan for and oversee a coordinated workforce development system for Monmouth County; by building and enhancing partnerships between the public and private sectors, guiding federal, state and local resources to promote a high quality, globally competitive workforce, fostering the development of high skill, high wage jobs, and working for a better standard of living for all citizens of Monmouth County.*

The Monmouth County Workforce Investment Board, commonly known as the WIB, consists of 36 members and is led by volunteers from area businesses. Membership also includes representation from education, organized labor, employment and training, human services, and community based organizations.

In accordance with the provisions of the federal Workforce Investment Act, which establishes general guidelines for the functioning of WIBs, all members are appointed to the board by the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders to terms of one, two or three years. Professional staff for the WIB is provided by the Monmouth County Division of Employment and Training, which is part of the Monmouth County Department of Human Services.

In partnership with the Monmouth

County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the WIB's overall goal is to develop and sustain a unified, labor market driven workforce development system to serve job seekers and employers in a cost efficient, results oriented manner. The WIB does not actually operate programs, but plans for and establishes policy for Monmouth County's workforce development system. The WIB relies on the expertise of its committees, which include non-WIB members, to monitor developments in specific areas and help the Workforce Investment Board achieve its goals.

The WIB's standing committees are Executive, Youth Council, Basic Skills and Literacy, One-Stop Career Centers, Services to People with Disabilities, Scholarship-Fund Raising, Marketing, Membership, Fort Monmouth Employment Retention Committee and Welfare-to-Careers.

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# WIB Works

**Monmouth County  
Workforce Investment Board  
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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CALL (732) 683-8850  
OR VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: [WWW.MONMOUTHWIB.ORG](http://WWW.MONMOUTHWIB.ORG)**