

Council on Gender Parity in Labor and Education
Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2008

Labor Education Center, Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey
10:30-12:00

Attendees: Eileen Appelbaum, Christine Amalfe, Angela Bethea, Terri Boyer, Laurel Brennan, Suzanne Eng, David Finegold, Judy Formalarie, Mary Gatta, Glenda Gracia-Rivera, Andrea Karsian, Janice Kovach, RoseMarie Korbelak, Dianne Mills McKay, Sarah Pallone, Henry Plotkin, Pat Roos, Yustina Saleh, Sondra Sen, June Shelp, Virginia Treacy, Deborah Ward, Karen White.

Chair Dianne Mills McKay opened the meeting with a welcome to all and introductions of those in attendance. She then turned the meeting over to Henry Plotkin who gave brief remarks on the activities of the Council during the past few months to institutionalize the work of the Council through legislation. He noted that one barrier the Council has consistently encountered in its work is the lack of availability of comprehensive data in New Jersey. He further noted that The Conference Board has been working with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the Commission on Higher Education to fill some of the gaps in available data. One area that the Conference Board has already worked on is job openings and labor market information that can be used to anticipate future job growth. With that, he introduced June Shelp, Vice President, The Conference Board, and asked her to give us an overview of their work.

The Conference Board: *June Shelp, Vice President* presented an overview of the mission of the Conference Board, its purpose is to provide reliable, unbiased information to help business improve their performance and better serve society. One of their labor market information tools reflects the Help Wanted Online Economic Series. If we are able to connect education and training more directly with the needs of business, The Conference Board can provide a service not only to our target group, women, but will add significantly to the type of thinking and research needed to improve the overall performance of the labor market for everyone.

Next Steps: The presentation was followed by a lively discussion by Council members, and others in attendance on the possible ways that the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the NJ State Employment & Training Commission, Commission on Higher Education, and the Gender Parity Council can work together to use The Conference Board data to create a biannual report on the status of women in the workplace.

Updates: There were no program updates provided at this meeting.

Next Meeting Date & Time: The next meeting of the Council will be November 13, 2008, at 10:30 a.m.