

State Employment and Training Commission  
**Council on Gender Parity in Labor and Education**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 5, 2009**

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

**Attendees:** Christine Amalfe, Marie Barry, Angela Bethea, Terri Boyer, Suzanne Eng, David Finegold, Judy Formalarie, Mary Gatta, Grace Hamilton, Dianne E. Hartshorn, RoseMarie Korbelak, Janice Kovach, Barbara Lee, Dianne Mills-McKay, Henry Plotkin, Grace Protos, Yustina Saleh, Virginia Treacy, Karen White, Robin Widing

Chair Dianne Mills McKay opened the meeting with a welcome to all and introductions of New Members.

**USDOL-Women's Bureau Region II:** Dianne McKay introduced guest speaker, Grace Protos, Regional Administrator, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, Region II, who gave a brief overview of the Women's Bureau (WB). The WB provides services to women living in New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. They are currently focused on financial education programs, the issue of Flex Option to encourage employers to look at the business case for work flexibility, and Green Jobs and the and the connection to women in the trades/technology/science occupations.

Ms. Protos discussed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). She stated that workforce funds will come to the states via the established system of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). These funds, however, will be kept separate and the WB could ask for specific data collection on gender parity issues. It is important that data collection requests be made very soon, so that information is collected from the beginning. It was suggested that members of the Council provide feedback to the SETC directly for the Unified State Plan modifications that they will submit for the ARRA funds. A taskforce was established for data tracking information.

**Project Updates:** NJ Women in Science & Technical Summit is scheduled for June 5, 2009 at the Conference Center at Mercer Community College. A "Save the date flyer" was made available to all Council members. The Summit subcommittee will meet February 26 to discuss further plans for the event. Center for Women and Work will send information about the event and subcommittee meeting to GPC members who may be interested in being involved in the planning process for the event.

**NCRC/CTE:** Terri Boyer informed the council that NCRC has a new grant of \$345,000, for this year, with a non-competitive grant opportunity for the following two. She gave a brief overview of NCRC activities during the past few months, including outreach on a

comprehensive CTE assessment on gender issues at New Jersey vocational schools. NCRC will be compiling best practices for a report to provide to school to help them raise their attendance levels in non-traditional career education fields. Marie Barry commented on the Department of Education's enthusiasm and support of this project.

It was also commented that the two summer programs for junior high and high school youth are in the process of registration now.

The NCRC website has been updated with the changes suggested at a prior Council meeting. The website can be found at [www.ncrc.rutgers.edu](http://www.ncrc.rutgers.edu).

**Women in Law Report:** Terri Boyer gave a brief update on the status of the Women in Law research report, including an updated timeline for completion. The Council was positive about the value of the data and report but voiced concerns about the timeline and dissemination plan. They asked that this project receive high priority to get it completed, and that they be kept informed of the progress as it moves forward.

**Senate Bill No. 2241:** Dianne McKay and Janice Kovach gave a brief update on the status of S2241, legislation introduced by Senator Loretta Weinberg concerning the work of the Gender Parity Council and a second bill on pay equity in the workplace. Janice Kovach will represent the Council in a meeting with Senator Weinberg to discuss Council recommendations regarding the legislation.

**Next Meeting Date & Time:** The next meeting of the Council will be April 30, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. at the Labor Education Center, Room 115.