

**New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission
Council on Gender Parity in Labor and Education
Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2010**

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

Attendees

Teresa Boyer, Laurel Brennan, Marilyn Coleman, David Finegold, Judith Formalarie, Grace Hamilton, Dianne Hartshorn, Linda Houser, Andrea Karsian, Janice Kovach, Dianne Mills McKay, Henry Plotkin, Robin Widing, and Robert Wise

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Dianne Mills McKay opened the meeting with a welcome to all, and reading of a letter from New Jersey State Senator Diane Allen, thanking her supporters for their concern during her illness and announcing her return to the Senate. Over a decade ago, Senator Allen sponsored the legislation which created the Council.

The Council was asked to review the draft minutes from the February 4th meeting. The February minutes were approved and will be posted online.

SETC Update

Robin Widing, Acting Executive Director of the SETC, informed the Council that approximately \$72,000 was allocated in the FY 2011 Governor's budget for the Council on Gender Parity. Over the next two months, efforts will be made to finalize the budget. Ms. Widing also updated the Council on current Department of Labor and Workforce Development programs and priorities.

Focusing a Gender Lens on New Jersey Employment in Challenging Economic Times

Linda Houser presented her work to date, documenting the role of gender in national and New Jersey state employment trends. She presented six key "filters" through which gender affects employment outcomes: industry factors, income and education, race, wages and benefits, changing employment rules, and service demands. The discussion that followed highlighted issues of continued interest to the Council, including the role of public sector employment; and changes in the health care field related to health insurance reform, the aging of the population, and funding streams for training.

Dr. Houser indicated that she will be using newly updated New Jersey Performs data to track workforce outcomes by gender in the coming two months.

Update on the Nontraditional Career Resource Center and *Legal Talent at the Crossroads*

Dr. Terri Boyer from the Rutgers University Center for Women and Work updated the Council on recent developments from the *Legal Talent at the Crossroads* report. The recent (April 21st) New Jersey Women Lawyers Association cocktail evening coordinated by the Center had 65 attendees, who gathered to discuss the report and offer updates on progress made since the report's publication. Dr. Boyer shared that firms that had good practices were well-aware of the report's findings and had been using its recommendations for policy and practice to good effect. Other firms were just learning of the report and still considering its implications.

Dr. Boyer also updated the Council on recent activities of the Nontraditional Career Resource Center (NCRC). The middle school spring TALE program ended very successfully, with events at three New Jersey sites. The NCRC will be accepting a maximum of 90 high school students to its residential summer leadership program, and this year saw a record number of applicants. Dr. Boyer also reported on the success of the STEP-UP program, which organizes and implements student-led professional development workshops for teachers. For the next fiscal year, NCRC will seek to begin a peer leader program in Career and Technical Education.

Next Meeting

In her closing remarks, Dianne Mills McKay encouraged everyone to register for the 4th Annual Women in Science and Technology Workforce Summit, Taking Initiative: Retooling for an Economy that can Handle Curves.

The next meeting of the Council will be the summer planning session, with the date TBA.