

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 27-07
	DATE January 28, 2008

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

FROM: THOMAS M. DOWD /s/
Administrator, Office of Policy Development and Research

SUBJECT: Workforce Innovations 2008 and Call for Presentations

- 1. Purpose.** To announce the Workforce Innovations 2008 Conference and the Call for Presentations for “learning lab” (workshop) submissions.
- 2. Background.** Co-hosted by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and the American Society for Training and Development, Workforce Innovations is the premier annual conference promoting collaborative leadership among workforce development, business, economic development, education, faith-based and community organizations, and philanthropy. Over 3,500 participants are expected to attend Workforce Innovations 2008, which will be held July 15-17, 2008 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Information on Workforce Innovations 2008 is available on the conference Web site at www.WorkforceInnovations.org.
- 3. Conference Theme and Learning Pathways.** The theme for Workforce Innovations 2008 is “Success Decoded.” The conference will bring together local, state, and national-level strategic workforce investment partners to learn from successes and cultivate talent development solutions needed in today’s global economy. Workforce Innovations 2008 will provide an unparalleled opportunity for strategic workforce investment partners to dialogue with a wide range of practitioners and thought leaders who are forging effective strategies for regionally-driven innovation and talent development.

Workforce Innovations 2008 will feature over 100 learning labs. The learning labs will be organized under the following seven themes:

- 1) *Globalization and the Innovation Economy* – Tools, resources and strategies that help strategic workforce development partners understand and respond to the dynamics of a global economy;

- 2) *Regional Talent Development Solutions for the Global Economy* – Agile and forward-thinking strategies that help regions implement talent development solutions that drive prosperity;
- 3) *Leveraging Resources for Increased Impact* – Examples of how leveraging resources, particularly at the local level, has improved outcomes for employers and workers;
- 4) *Innovations in Education and Workforce Partnerships* – Collaborations between the public workforce investment system and educational institutions that have successfully prepared workers for the global innovation economy;
- 5) *Business Engagement and Leadership* – Collaborations between the public workforce investment system and employers to meet the talent demands of critical businesses and industries within regional economies;
- 6) *Maximizing Your Talent Pool* – Examples of how the public workforce investment system is leveraging its access to talent and collaborating with strategic partners to build the pipeline of skilled workers; and
- 7) *Workforce System Leadership and Transformation* – Leadership at the state and local levels that has led to systemic and institutional transformation of the public workforce investment system.

4. **Call for Presentations.** Strategic workforce investment partners – such as the public workforce investment system, business, economic development, educational institutions, faith-based and community based organizations, philanthropy, and associations that represent these fields – are invited to submit learning lab proposals to ETA. All submissions must meet the criteria outlined in the attached Call for Presentations. Proposals must be submitted via the online database at www.WorkforceInnovations.org/CFP2008.cfm by Friday, February 22, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time).

5. **Additional Conference Features.** In addition to learning labs, Workforce Innovations 2008 will offer several features to enhance the conference experience, including:
- 1) Exciting plenary sessions featuring prominent thought leaders, including Don Tapscott, author of Wikinomics, and Steve Uzzell, world-renowned photographer;
 - 2) Opportunities to learn from the accomplishments of Recognition of Excellence honorees;
 - 3) Educational off-site tours to stimulate creativity;
 - 4) Over 100 exhibitors demonstrating innovative technologies, tools, and resources;
 - 5) A variety of pre-conference events to increase networking and learning;

- 6) Opportunities to participate in community service events to contribute to the rebuilding effort in New Orleans, Louisiana; and
 - 7) An opportunity to experience the area's cultures at a reception at Generations Hall in the heart of downtown New Orleans.
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6. **Registration.** Registration for the conference and accommodations will soon be available on the Workforce Innovations 2008 Web site at www.WorkforceInnovations.org. Strategic workforce investment partners are encouraged to visit the Web site regularly for updated information.
 7. **Conference Exhibitors.** Workforce Innovations 2008 provides a valuable opportunity to share the public workforce investment system and strategic partners' innovations and successes. All exhibit inquiries and suggestions should be directed to conference exhibit management by phone at 410-584-1989 or email at wi@networkpub.com.
 8. **Conference Volunteers.** Strategic workforce investment partners who will be attending the Workforce Innovations 2008 and are interested in serving as a conference volunteer should contact Elaine Kolodny by 202-693-3880 or by email at Kolodny.Elaine@dol.gov.
 9. **Inquiries.** Questions about Workforce Innovations 2008 should be directed to ETA Regional Offices or to conference staff by email at info@workforceinnovations.org.
 10. **Attachment.** Call for Presentations.